

Highway to link S. Arabia, Egypt

RIVADH (AP) — Saudi Arabia and Egypt will be 10 minutes apart by car when a projected causeway from the Sinai peninsula to the Saudi coast is completed, a Saudi newspaper reported Sunday. The Dammam-based daily Al Yawm said the roadway across the Straits of Tiran will cost \$500 million and take three to five years to execute. The report did not specify how close the highway would come to Ras Muhammad, a nature preserve at the very tip of the Sinai peninsula known internationally for its stunning coral reefs and fish. The blueprint will be discussed at the meeting of the joint Saudi-Egyptian commission under the chairmanship foreign ministers in Cairo in September, with a preparatory meeting in August in Riyadh, the paper said. It will then be submitted to the higher authorities for final approval, the paper said. The paper said the highway, which would include a bridge high enough to allow ships to pass through the Gulf of Aqaba, will stretch from the Sinai coast to the west coast of Saudi Arabia via the island of Tiran. It will be 14.9 kilometres "and will reduce the distance by car between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Egypt to about 10 minutes," the paper said.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز مؤسسة صحفية عربية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية - الراي

'Superpower initiative' expected

RIVADH (AP) — The United States and the Soviet Union are planning to launch a joint peace initiative for the Middle East, a Saudi Arabian newspaper reported Sunday. The daily newspaper Al Nadea, quoting an unidentified Egyptian diplomatic source, said that the initiative involves a shuttle between Middle East capitals by a joint American-Soviet delegation. It said the idea was raised by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker during his recent talks in Moscow with his Soviet counterpart Eduard Shevardnadze. No details of the plan were reported. Baker's condition was that the Soviet Union first restore diplomatic ties with Israel. "Baker told Shevardnadze about the idea of sending a Soviet-American delegation to the region, but he made it a condition that Moscow restore its ties with Tel Aviv so that the task of the joint delegation can succeed," Al Nadea quoted the Egyptian diplomat as saying. Shevardnadze, according to the source, was "responsive to the American view on relations with Israel and affirmed his country was seriously studying this matter but was awaiting some Israeli flexibility on the peace-making process as an encouragement."

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'PUNISH CHINA'S RUSHDIE' chant Chinese Muslim women as they march past the Tiananmen rostrum in Peking Friday to protest against a book entitled "Sexual Customs." The book was described Chinese Muslims as openly insulting Islam.

and was compared with the "Satanic Verses" written by Indian-born British author Salman Rushdie, who is under an Iranian threat (see page 8).

2 Israeli policemen wounded

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — A Palestinian shot and slightly injured two Israeli policemen in northern Israel Sunday and was seriously wounded by return fire, sources said.

They said the Palestinian, whose identity was not immediately known, fired on a police van near Shata prison in the Beit Shean valley. He was now in critical condition in an Israeli hospital, they said.

The shooting was the latest in a spate of attacks by Palestinians within Israel's pre-1967 borders. Cabinet ministers recently warned that the 17-month-old uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip was spreading to Israel.

A soldier who went missing in February was found dead with a bullet wound in his head in southern Israel last week.

Hundreds of volunteers joined troops and police Sunday to search for another soldier, Ilan Saadon, who went missing earlier this month after hitchhiking a ride not far from the Gaza Strip.

Police blamed Palestinian nationalists for both abductions, which sparked anti-Arab demonstrations in Ashdod and Ashkelon, the soldiers' home towns.

Israeli youths from Ashdod stoned cars from the Gaza Strip Sunday but caused no damage or injuries. Police said they arrested a photographer who urged the youths to stone Arab cars, tempting them with promises of their picture in the newspaper.

Troops shot and wounded at least eight stone-throwing Palestinians aged between 10 and 15 during demonstrations in the Gaza Strip Sunday, hospital officials said.

An Arab teenager was found stabbed to death in Khan Yunis Sunday. Palestinians said he was a drug dealer suspected of collaborating with Israel.

More than 40 suspected collaborators have been killed during the uprising.

Meanwhile, an Israeli military court Sunday remained in custody two Palestinians accused of helping Professor Sari Nusseibeh organise the uprising.

Nusseibeh has not been charged with any offence. But the judge said there was enough evidence to hold the pair in jail until their trial.

Court papers accused Hamza Samadi, 29, of passing information between Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials and Nusseibeh, to be included in leaflets directing the revolt.

Faed Al Haj, 29, of Birzeit was accused of receiving more than \$250,000 from Nusseibeh to finance the 17-month-old uprising.

Defence lawyer Ibrahim Nassar said it was unfair that his clients were held in custody while Nusseibeh went uncharged.

No date has been set for their trial.

Israeli cabinet approves Shamir plan, evades issues

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — The Israeli cabinet endorsed Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's proposals for elections in the occupied territories Sunday but evaded key issues on which the United States sought concessions.

Ministers approved by a vote of 20-6 a peace plan that envisages "free, democratic and secret" elections to choose representatives to negotiate Palestinian "self-rule" with Israel.

Sidestepping U.S. requests, the document does not say if 140,000 Palestinians in Arab Jerusalem will be allowed to vote and does not mention international supervision or a pullback of Israeli troops before the election.

Asked why these points were omitted, Communications Minister Gad Yaseobi told reporters: "Constructive ambiguity is essential for progress in such a complicated political process."

Cabinet sources said Shamir told ministers the plan was meant to counter a Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace initiative which he said "threatens to bring our enemies to the gates of Jerusalem."

The 20-point document, entitled "A Peace Initiative by the Government of Israel," does not make elections strictly conditional on an end to the 17-month-old Palestinian uprising.

But it states: "In the period of the preparations and implementation, there shall be a calving of the violence in (the West Bank) and the Gaza district."

Cabinet sources said Foreign Minister Moshe Arens painted a

gloomy picture of Israel's world image during the 6½-hour discussion of the peace plan.

"I have become deeply concerned over the erosion of Israel's international standing. This initiative comes in stem tide," he was quoted as saying.

Right-wing strongman Ariel Sharon led the opposition in cabinet to the proposal, which he said could lead Israel towards a "terrible tragedy."

Sharon, architect of Israel's 1982 Lebanon invasion and now minister of trade and industry, demanded instead the crushing of the uprising, major expansion of Jewish settlement in the occupied territories and extension of Israeli law to the areas.

Shamir and Arens presented the proposal to visiting U.S. State Department official Dennis Ross, stressing that Palestinians would have to accept the Israeli package in full, aides said.

Ross met with four Palestinians but 11 others boycotted the meeting at the U.S. consulate in Jerusalem. The key topic was the elections proposal, which Palestinians made clear would have to be endorsed by the PLO.

"We accept the elections in principle to be free and democratic under international supervision with the full consent of the PLO," said Elias Freij, mayor of Bethlehem.

Six Palestinians who did not attend sent a letter to U.S. officials criticising the Shamir plan as "grossly deficient" and saying it was "not part of a political process that would lead clearly to the

establishment of an independent Palestinian state."

"It is clear that Shamir's plan ignores the Palestinian people living in the diaspora," said the letter. "It is an attempt to create a local interlocutor which will replace our avowed leadership (the PLO)."

But the six — Sari Nusseibeh, Ziad Abu Ziad, Ezzedin Arian, Zakaria Al Agha, Ghassan Al Khatib and Zuhira Kamal — did not rule out participation in the election, apparently softening previous rejections of the Israeli idea.

Israel's proposals, modelled on the 1978 Israeli-Egyptian Camp David plan, said Palestinians would "conduct their affairs of daily life" during a five-year interim period, while Israel would remain responsible for "security."

The elected negotiators would also serve as a self-governing authority during the transition, and would be "the central Palestinian component, subject to agreement after three years, in the negotiations for the permanent solution."

Contestants would have to submit their candidacy "in accordance with the detailed document which shall determine the subject of the elections," an apparent effort to prevent the PLO from turning the poll into a referendum on Palestinian independence.

The document contains no Israeli commitment to trade occupied land for peace and rules out negotiations with the PLO.

Sporadic violence persists in Beirut

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Gunbattles erupted in hills above Beirut Sunday as rival forces traded sporadic artillery fire, threatening to undermine the Arab League's latest ceasefire.

Police said Michael Aoun's troops were locked in sniper fire and rocket-propelled grenade duels with Lebanese militiamen and Syrian forces at the mountain town of Souk Al Gharb southeast of Beirut.

The strategic town sits atop a road network leading from the Druze hinterland in the Shouf mountains to the Christian enclave north and northeast of Beirut. No casualties were reported at the Souk Al Gharb front.

Police said at least 40 shells were fired from west Beirut onto a coastal stretch running through the port of Byblos, 30 kilometres north of Beirut. No casualties were reported in the barrage, apparently aimed at preventing ships from entering the harbour.

Thousands of Beirutis headed to the mountains Sunday for a breath of fresh air or basked on beaches. Many families were reunited for Sunday lunches for the first time since mid-March.

The ceasefire Thursday ended 60 days of artillery duels. It failed to halt shelling aimed at stopping ships docking at Aoun-controlled ports.

Public confidence in the ceasefire increased when the Arab League mediators, before leaving Beirut for talks in Damascus, announced that the warring factions would keep their guns silent.

The mediators discussed Lebanon with Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharrar Sunday and diplomats said they appeared more optimistic the ceasefire would hold. They later left for Kuwait.

The envoys were to return to Syria Tuesday or Wednesday to resume negotiations with Syrian and Lebanese leaders on arrangements for the deployment of a

300-man ceasefire observer force in Lebanon.

Sharrar discussed developments with Lakhdar Brahimi, the league's assistant secretary-general, and Ahmad Abdul Aziz Al-Jassem, Kuwait's ambassador to Syria.

Ibrahim Thursday negotiated the ceasefire in Lebanon. Diplomats said the envoys seemed optimistic the ceasefire would hold.

The Syria Times said the continuing crisis served the interests of Israel, which wanted to partition Lebanon and impose hegemony over it. It said those who foisted opportunities for reconciliation served Israeli interests.

"On this basis, we note the harmony and coordination between the mad general (Aoun) and Israel's efforts to pour oil on the fire of disunity, not only to worsen the situation in Lebanon but to cause trouble for Syria."

The Arab league envoys later left for Kuwait to report to Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah.

Flurry of inter-Arab contacts ahead of Casablanca summit

BAHRAIN (AP) — The emir of Bahrain, Sheikh Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa, arrived in Iraq Sunday as Sultan Qaboos of Oman began an official visit to Kuwait amid inter-Arab consultations ahead of an emergency Arab summit conference in Morocco.

The top-level meeting, scheduled for May 23-24 in Casablanca will tackle three major issues — the Palestinian problem, the Lebanese civil war and the restoration of Egypt's membership at the 22-nation Arab League.

Arab officials have said. Sheikh Isa was scheduled to fly on to Cairo after his 48-hour official visit to Baghdad and talks with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, official sources said.

Kuwait is the first leg of a six-state Arab and European tour by Sultan Qaboos, who is on one of his rare international forays. The other countries on his itinerary are Jordan, Egypt, France, Spain and the United Kingdom.

Qaboos has not been on a trip outside the Arab World since his 1983 visit to the United States. Official sources in the Bahraini and Omani capitals said that Sheikh Isa and Sultan Qaboos will discuss the Gulf situation and Arab and international issues on their tours.

Syria has removed a major hurdle to the success of next

week's emergency Arab summit by announcing that it would not try to block attendance by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

Damascus does not have relations with Cairo, but a spokesman for President Hafez Al Assad said he would not object to Mubarak taking part in the Arab League meeting opening in Morocco May 23.

"Syria sees in the attendance of President Mubarak at the Casablanca summit a natural and positive development," spokesman Joubran Kourieh told Reuters Saturday in response to a question about Mubarak's role.

Kourieh, replying to a question by Reuters on Mubarak's participation at the summit, said: "Syria knows that... Mubarak, who is linked with an old friendship with President Hafez Al Assad, is not Anwar Sadat and is not responsible for the policy which kept Egypt away from the Arab ranks."

"Syria does not disregard the positive elements in the policies of President Mubarak," he said. Diplomats said the announcement meant Libya might now be the only Arab country opposed to rejoining Egypt in the Arab League.

The Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries, which includes Syria and Libya,

voted Saturday to readmit Egypt. Libya did not vote against the move but expressed reservations.

Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi made an unexpected visit to Morocco Saturday for talks with King Hassan in Casablanca but it was not immediately clear if Libya would attend the summit.

Libya, Syria and Lebanon are the only Arab countries not to have restored relations with Cairo, cut in protest at its 1979 treaty with Israel.

The diplomats said Lebanon, despite having rival governments divided over Syria's role and military presence in the country, would probably follow the line from Damascus and accept Mubarak's presence in Casablanca.

Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahayan, crown prince of Abu Dhabi in the UAE, discussed the summit with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak during a trip to Cairo Saturday.

Syrian spokesman Kourieh confirmed Saturday that Assad would lead Syria's delegation to the summit, and said Syria would work to make it a success.

Speaking about Syria's relations with Egypt, the spokesman said: "Syria, which fought the 1973 October war (against Israel) with

the sister country of Egypt, knows the importance of the Egyptian people and army in the Arab national struggle."

"Syria supported Egypt's return to its natural place in national Arab struggle."

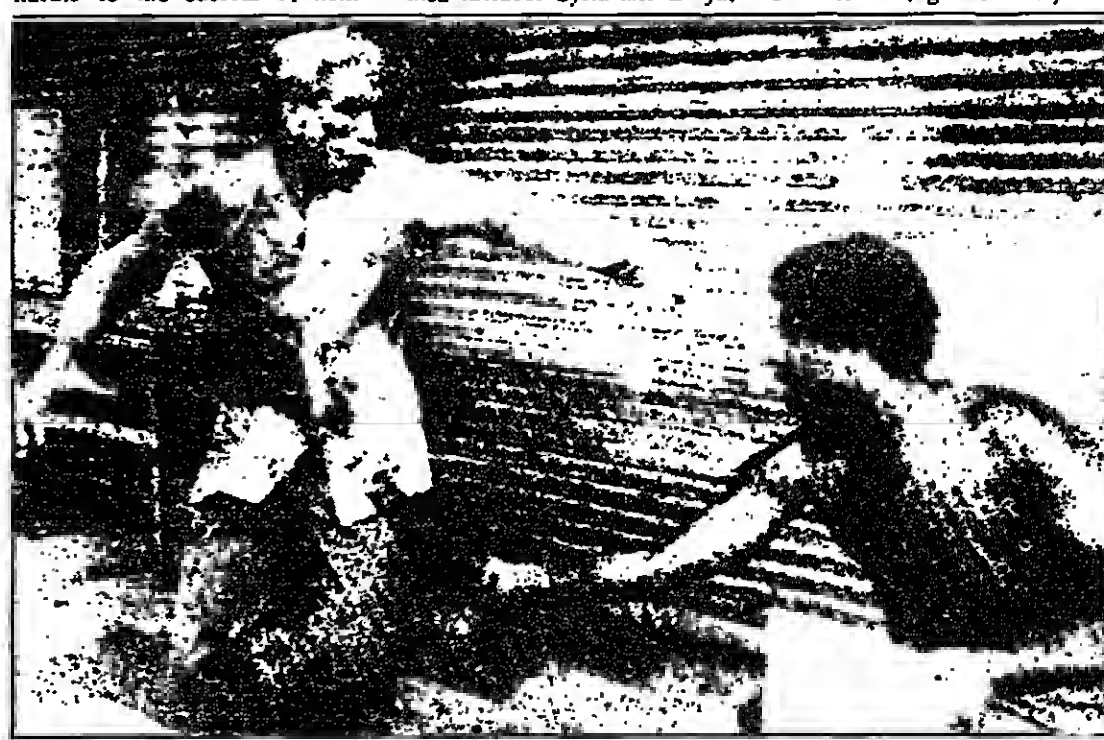
Asked about Syria's stand on summit issues, Kourieh said Damascus had always called for Arab unity and supported moves for joint Arab action to free the Israeli-occupied territories and restore Palestinian rights.

A turning point in Syria's attitude came at an Arab League summit in Amman in November 1978 when Damascus did not object to a decision to allow individual Arab countries to restore ties with Egypt.

Saudi Arabia and Jordan have intensified mediation efforts in the last two years, ending a war of wits between Syria and Egypt. Officials in both countries have made positive statements on relations.

Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz visited Damascus in January as part of the diplomatic drive to end the 10-year rift and helped to persuade Syria to restore ties with summit host Morocco.

Syria cut relations with Rahat in 1986 in protest at a visit by then Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres to the kingdom.



Panama's opposition vice-presidential candidate Guillermo Ford is attacked and beaten by a pro-government supporter Wednesday while on a tour of Panama City with other opposition candidates.

Bush calls on people, PDF to oust strongman

Panamanian church joins opposition against Noriega

PANAMA CITY (Agencies) — A pastoral letter condemning the beating of political candidates, the annulment of elections and other actions of Manuel Noriega was read Sunday on government-controlled television and at Roman Catholic masses across Panama.

The opposition called Saturday for unspecified displays of protest at church services, but none were reported at early masses, although many congregations applauded the pastoral letter.

The opposition has also called for a 24-hour general strike Wednesday.

U.S. President George Bush said he doesn't want to be the "gringo from up north," but he raised the stakes dramatically in his confrontation with Noriega by urging Panamanians to overthrow their country's de facto ruler.

Previously, Bush had called on Noriega to step aside, but had not urged direct revolt in the crisis that has developed since Panama's disputed election last Sunday.

At a political fundraising dinner in Lexington, Kentucky, Saturday night, shortly after urging the Panamanian military to oust Noriega, Bush said he did not want "a return to the days of the imperialistic gringos of the north."

But he vowed to protect the 50,000 Americans in Panama. "Let me be clear on one point, I will protect American lives in Panama... we will not let American lives be put at risk by a

dictator down there," he said.

Earlier, Bush said the Panamanian people "ought to do everything they can to get him (Noriega) out."

"I would love to see them (the Panamanian Defence Forces) get him out... not just the PDF, the will of the people," Bush told reporters travelling with him on Air Force one from Lorman to Starkville, Mississippi, when asked if he was urging a military coup.

Meanwhile the 1,881 fresh U.S. troops ordered in by Bush settled into tents around Panama Canal bases a few kilometres from the capital.

The Panamanian government, which has issued few statements this week, had no reaction to Bush's call Saturday but said that the nation was so calm Saturday that many Panamanian troops were being given leave.

In fact there were almost no troops visible, even at the central barracks where Noriega lives.

The pastoral letter asked the PDF not to use their arms against "a defenceless people" and asked for solidarity and prayer.

The letter was originally issued Thursday by Archbishop Marcos McGrath and other bishops of the Roman Catholic Episcopal Conference of Panama, one day after presidential hopeful Guillermo Endara and other opposition candidates were beaten by pro-government forces.

There had been some doubt that the government would permit the letter to be read on the

government-controlled television's normal Sunday mass broadcast.

McGrath himself did not appear, as he usually does, but the letter was read by a lay person. McGrath himself was celebrating mass at an undisclosed location, a spokeswoman for the church said.

The government continued to try to jam U.S. armed forces television news programme whenever the issue of Wednesday's vote, which the government declared null after it said tallies were lost, was mentioned. Nevertheless, Bush and commentators discussing Panama could often be heard.

It is uncertain whether Bush's call for a virtual coup would shake the PDF's strong loyalty to their leader.

The official Soviet news agency TASS Saturday accused the United States of heightening tension in Panama and demanded an immediate end to "outside pressure" on the country.

The agency, in an official statement, said Washington had been waging an anti-Panama campaign for more than a year and had used economic measures, psychological pressure and "ultimatum-like threats" in the run-up to last Sunday's elections.

"The commitment to democracy, as the Washington line towards Panama is presented, is nothing other than intervention into internal affairs and a defiance of the elemental norms of international law," TASS said.

Soviets vote again

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Soviet voters were choosing from a wealth of candidates Sunday in more balloting for the country's revamped parliament.

Officials seemed resigned to the certainty that parliament would open May 25 with some empty seats where split votes would have cost leading candidates the necessary majorities.

"In many constituencies where there are 20 or more candidates, a new round is inevitable," the Communist Party daily Pravda said in a front-page editorial.

A total of 1,216 candidates were vying for 198 unfilled seats in the new, more powerful Congress of People's Deputies.

The voting amounted to the third round of the Soviet Union's first genuinely multi-candidate elections and in more than half the seats at stake, at least four hopefuls were pitted against one another.

Voters in a seat covering all of Leningrad confronted ballot papers bearing the names of 34 candidates. Thirty-three were standing in a similar Kiev constituency.

A run-off round must be held within two weeks and completely new elections staged if no winner is declared in constituencies with only one or two candidates.

Sunday's voting was taking place in areas where only one or two candidates contested the first round of voting March 26 but none achieved the required 50 per cent of ballots cast.

Most of the officials embarrassed the first round of elections on March 26 chose not to run again, and their places were taken by figures such as Vitaly Korchik, reformist editor of Ogonyok magazine in the Ukrainian city Kharkov; investigator Nikolai Ivanov, an anti-corruption crusader in Leningrad; Olympic weightlifting champion Yuri Vlasov and liberal playwright Mikhail Shatrov in Moscow; and commentator Alexander Bovin and Anatoly Ivanov, editor of the ultra-conservative monthly Molodaya Gvardiya, in Zagorsk.

Afghan rebels say massive assault on Kabul planned

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Rebels said Saturday that some 30,000 fighters were preparing for an imminent attack on Kabul, the Afghan capital.

Rebel leaders and foreign observers had said earlier that an assault on Afghanistan's capital might occur in mid-May, following the spring thaw and the end of last week of Ramadan.

"About 30,000 Mujahideen forces will launch a common attack on Kabul city very soon," the rebels' Afghan News Agency (ANA) quoted a guerrilla commander, Mohammad Nasir, as saying.

Neither ANA nor other Mujahideen sources would specify the date of the assault.

President Najibullah has insisted that his forces are strong enough to withstand a rebel onslaught. Najibullah has already proven wrong early predictions that his government would fall quickly once Soviet troops, which had been bolstering his forces, withdrew in February.

Kabul is a city of about two million people some 180 kilometres west of the border with Pakistan, where a coalition of Afghan rebels is based. It is protected by at least three security rings built by Soviet forces.

Tribal leaders to meet

The Afghan government has announced that the council of tribal elders would meet this month and be asked to extend the state of emergency.

Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil said Saturday the Loya Jirga, or grand assembly would convene "in the next few days" but gave no date.

Wakil made his remarks before leaving for the conference of non-aligned nations in Zimbabwe.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Mohammad Nabi Amani said the grand assembly would be asked to extend a state of emergency that is scheduled to expire May 20.

Najibullah declared the emergency Feb. 18, three days after the last Soviet troops left Afghanistan.

Najibullah said the emergency was necessary because of threat of foreign aggression and subversive activities by the rebels trying to overthrow his government.

Amani said the government had hoped to allow the emergency to expire, but said reports that neighbouring Pakistan was planning to attack the eastern city of Jalalabad and the southern city of Kandahar made an extension necessary.

The Loya Jirga last met in November 1987. During the meeting the elders adopted the country's constitution and confirmed Najibullah as president.

The assembly consists of members of the national assembly, 10 elected deputies from each province, the governors of the provinces and the mayor of Kabul, the prime minister and his deputies, cabinet members, members of the supreme court, the attorney general and his deputies, and 50 people selected by the president.

The assembly is empowered to accept and amend the constitution, elect the president and accept his resignation, declare war and consider issues affecting the country's future.

Rebels said Saturday government aircraft bombed Mujahideen positions around Jalalabad 35 times Friday. Rebels gave no figures of their own casualties but claimed to have killed more than



AK-47 at the ready, an Afghan government militiaman enjoys a game of volleyball in a village 12 kilometres from Kabul that was formerly held by rebels

80 government troops.

The rebels have formed their own government-in-exile and announced plans to establish a

headquarters somewhere in eastern Afghanistan by this summer.

Four countries have officially recognised the rebel government.

Iranian-Saudi talks on Haj said to have broken off

DUBAI (R) — Iran and Saudi Arabia have broken off efforts to codify Tehran's boycott of the annual Haj pilgrimage to Mecca, Iranian sources in the Gulf said Sunday.

Even if contacts resumed, it was now almost impossible to arrange for Iranians to take part in this year's pilgrimage in July, said the sources, who are close to members of Iran's negotiating team.

Saudi Arabia broke diplomatic relations with Iran in a row which ensued after riots during the 1987 pilgrimage when Saudi security forces clashed with Iranians staging a political demonstration. More than 400 people, mostly Iranian pilgrims, were killed.

Western diplomats said the issue was closely connected with a challenge by Iran's spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, to Saudi Arabia's traditional role as the guardian of Islam and with Iran's threatening proximity to Arab Gulf states.

But both countries expressed willingness to try to improve relations following last August's ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war.

Tehran demanded four concessions. It wanted Saudi Arabia to accept 150,000 Iranian pilgrims, to allow them to hold political demonstrations, to compensate Iran for the 1987 casualties and to make an apology.

Saudi officials have consistently denied that any direct talks have taken place but diplomats in the region say that negotiations have been going on indirectly for several months, mainly through other Muslim states such as Pakistan.

Riyadh has said repeatedly that Iran must stick to a quota of 45,000 pilgrims, agreed by Islamic states last year.

Arab diplomats in the Gulf said Saudi Arabia would never allow the pilgrimage to be turned into a forum for political protest.

An official Saudi statement last week said anyone who disrupted

the pilgrimage would be liable for punishment under strict Islamic laws.

The Iranian sources said Riyadh refused to make an apology and had ruled out political demonstrations. But they said it had agreed to consider compensation and to allow some increase in the quota in view of the absence of Iranian pilgrims last year.

The Western diplomats said a failure to end the boycott this year did not necessarily rule out better Iranian-Saudi ties on fronts such as cooperation within the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). But it would mean progress on improving political relations was unlikely.

They noted that the official Iranian media had reverted to referring to Saudi Arabia as the "illegal government of Hijaz," a derogatory term which was dropped about six months ago.

Israel involved in missile espionage

LONDON (AP) — Israel's Mossad secret service was involved in South African espionage efforts to obtain British missile technology, the Sunday Telegraph reported.

The conservative weekly, quoting unidentified "security sources in London," linked Mossad and South African arms manufacturer, Armscor, in the operation which led to the arrest of five men in Paris last month in a reported missile-for-arms deal.

The newspaper said Israel was as keen as Armscor on obtaining the latest British missile technology because it is "critically short of modern air defences for its ground forces" after 20 years of underestimating Arab air forces.

The report said: "The ultimate goal of the Paris operation is thought to have been for South Africa and Israel to undertake joint development of a series of high-speed missiles for use by both ground and air forces."

The weekly said relations between Mossad and Britain's MI6 intelligence gathering agency could well be strained again by the affair, shortly after they healed following a six-month rupture last year when Mossad agent Ismael Sowan, posing as

a member of the PLO, was jailed for 11 years for possessing an arms cache in England.

Three of the men arrested in Paris are Northern Ireland Protestants who are alleged to have been negotiating with a South African diplomat and a U.S. arms dealer to supply British missile parts made in Belfast in return for South African arms.

The three men were alleged to have smuggled parts of the shoulder-launched Blowpipe missile, used by the British army, which would have enabled Armscor to develop its own missiles. The Sunday Telegraph said Mossad was eager to acquire the technology of the latest British high-velocity missile, Starstreak.

Both Blowpipe and Starstreak are made at the Short Brothers factory in Belfast.

The report said MI6 is investigating how the Northern Irish Protestants received arms which are believed to have been purchased with South African money and shipped from militia groups in Lebanon.

"It is here that sources believe Mossad actively assisted with the South African operation," the story said.

Demand of alleged kidnappers of Briton mystifies Scotland Yard

LONDON (AP) — A group claiming to have kidnapped a Briton in Lebanon demanded the release of comrades jailed in connection with the killing of a Palestinian cartoonist in London — but Scotland Yard said that nobody has ever been arrested in the case.

The demand by the previously unknown group calling itself the Cells of Armed Struggle mystified British authorities because the murder of Ali Naji Al Adhami remains unsolved nearly two years after his death.

Jack Mann, a retired royal air force pilot, disappeared on his way to bank in Beirut Friday and hours later the group claimed it had kidnapped a Briton. It did not identify Mann by name.

The foreign office said: "It's the only indication we have so far that Mann may have been kidnapped."

In his handwritten Arabic statement, the Cells of Armed Struggle said: "We ask the British government to release our comrades held in jails without proof on the charges of killing Naji Al Ali who was killed by the Israeli (intelligence service) Mossad and the British intelligence service."

"We announce our readiness to immediately release the captive if the British government announces the start of a fair trial of our comrades, reveals their unknown fate and explains the reasons for continuing to hold them."

Adhami, who was also known as Naji Al Ali, was shot in the head by a lone gunman outside the London office of the Kuwaiti

newspaper Al Qabas July 22, 1987. He died in hospital five weeks later.

At the time of the shooting, observers speculated that one of the many groups he satirised had killed him.

Adhami was the most famous and feared cartoonist in the Arab World. He satirised the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), characterising them as rich men enjoying fast cars and jet-set travel. He treated the Gulf war as a cruelty inflicted on both sides.

He was expelled from Kuwait in 1985 and for the two years before his death worked on Al Qabas, which installed a security system because of death threats.

The aftermath to his murder provoked a diplomatic row over Mossad's activities in Britain.

In June 1988, Ismael Sowan, an Israeli double agent posing as a member of the PLO, was sentenced to 11 years in prison for keeping a cache of explosives for the PLO in his home in the eastern English port of Hull.

Sowan, 28, was arrested in August 1987 by police investigating Adhami's murder.

He testified at his trial in London that the weapons found in locked suitcases in his home belonged to Abdel Mustapha, who suspected of organising Adhami's murder. Police said that Mustapha fled to the Middle East after Adhami was shot.

Scotland Yard said Saturday: "Apart from Sowan, who was convicted, nobody is being held in relation to the death."

After Sowan's conviction, Britain expelled an attaché at the Israeli embassy for "activities incompatible with his status," a euphemism for spying. The expulsion was said at the time to be unprecedented for a diplomat from a friendly country.

Britain also expelled an official of the London office of the PLO and informed the Israeli embassy that a second Israeli diplomat, who was abroad, would be unwelcome if he returned.

Some weeks after Sowan's trial ended, newspapers reported that Mossad was believed to have dismantled an entire espionage cell in Britain.

In May 1988, the Sunday Telegraph said one theory being investigated by British intelligence was that Mossad may have been involved in some way which it did not specify in the cartoonist's murder. The paper said British intelligence suspected Mossad of sowing discord between Arab factions in Britain.

PLO denounces kidnapping

The PLO Sunday condemned the kidnapping said it would "spare no effort to assist in his release."

Ahmed Abdul Rahman, spokesman for the PLO, told the French news agency Agence France-Presse that the PLO condemned "vigorously this terrorist act against a very old man."

"We have never heard of this imaginary organisation (which claimed the kidnapping), which has no relation to Palestinian organisations," Abdul Rahman told the French news agency.

Rich rewards await crew of relief train to S. Sudan

By Hamza Hendawi
Reuters

KHARTOUM — Rich rewards have lured Sudanese railway workers into agreeing to crew an unescorted train carrying food into famine-stricken southern Sudan.

The Sudan News Agency (SUNA) said Saturday that Sudanese and U.N. officials had agreed with railway workers after month-long negotiations to allow the trip to go ahead.

Each member of the crew were to be given 2,000 Sudanese pounds (\$444) before the train sets out Sunday. They will receive 13,000 pounds (\$2,888) for every return trip from Al Muglad in south Kordofan province to Aweil, 250 kilometres to the south.

The train, loaded with nearly 1,500 tonnes of food, will travel without a military escort, a prospect which initially prompted the railwaymen to refuse to make the trip.

The 49-wagon train, part of a \$132-million U.N. relief plan called Lifeline Sudan, was due to drop off some supplies in government and rebel-held areas on the way to Aweil.

SUNA, reporting from Al Muglad, said 100,000 pounds (\$22,200) would be paid to the family of any worker killed on the trip and 75,000 pounds (\$16,600) to the badly injured. The rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) has ambushed several trains, river barges and truck convoys travelling to the south since it

started fighting government troops in 1983.

The SPLA said it launched the attacks, in which scores of railway and river transport workers and drivers were killed, because the supplies were supporting government garrisons.

SPLA leader John Garang declared a unilateral one-month ceasefire on May 1 for the relief operation. The government welcomed the move but fell short of saying it would reciprocate.

Lifeline Sudan began April 1 with U.N. officials saying it was designed to feed about 2.2 million people. They said this included 100,000 who were in danger of dying unless supplies reached them.

Twenty aircraft, at an estimated cost of \$2 million a day, are ferrying food to districts held by both the army and the SPLA.

Convoys of trucks from Kenya and Uganda are also moving supplies into south Sudan, where an estimated 250,000 people died last year of hunger and disease.

The SPLA launched its guerrilla war to end what it regards as the domination by the north over the south. It also wants Sudan governed by secular laws.

Lifeline's coordinator in Sudan, Bryan Wannop, was quoted by Khartoum newspapers Saturday as saying he hoped the relief train would complete its journey without incident.

Wannop, head of the U.N. Development Programme in Sudan, was to accompany it on the first trip with teams of relief workers who will stay behind to monitor distribution of the food. Lifeline says none of the supplies should reach the belligerents.

Ohag Mohammad Mousa, Sudan's minister of social welfare and relief, said the trip would refute what he called media reports that the Khartoum government was preventing relief reaching the south because it racially discriminated against southerners.

Lifeline has so far delivered more than 45,000 tonnes of supplies to the south, according to U.N. officials. Their target is 120,000 tonnes by the end of June.

W. German hostage released

ZAHIRANI (Agencies) — A 21-year-old West German relief worker kidnapped 10 days ago was released Sunday.

Markus Quint arrived at the headquarters of the relief organisation he worked for at 3:55 p.m. (1255 GMT) with Nahid Berri, head of the Amal militia.

He arrived at the Asmae-Humanitas base in Zahran in Berri's armoured white BMW car. Berri is also justice minister in the civilian cabinet of Lebanon's divided government.

Quint, wearing a brown track suit and plastic slippers, turned to the militia chief and thanked him for helping in his release.

"I thank the minister and I thank the Amal movement a lot for releasing me," said Quint, nervously smoking a cigarette. Asked if he had any clue to the identity of his kidnappers, Quint said, "I'm tired."

He said he was well-treated by his captors, adding, "they did not hurt me. They were very good with me and I didn't face any problems with food." Quint said he did not know what his future plans were. "I don't know if I will stay in

Lebanon or leave," he said.

No group had claimed responsibility for the kidnapping, reportedly linked to the murder and hijacking trial of a Lebanese in West Germany.

Quint spoke at a 20-minute press conference that he and Berri held at relief group's base. Berri said his militia obtained Quint's freedom. Amal controls most of southern Lebanon.

"Amal has obtained Quint's freedom. We did not pay the kidnappers any money," said Berri.

He refused to reveal the identity of the kidnappers, saying: "I don't want to say anything that will hurt Quint and his colleagues."

Berri refused to comment further on how Quint was released, adding: "I did not meet the kidnappers. Many contacts were made and, of course, we exerted a lot of pressure and carried out raids."

Quint was abducted with two West German colleagues on May 4. The other two, who were released a few hours later, told journalists they were

carrying demands from kidnappers who they said had threatened Quint's life.

The demands of the captors, reported to be Lebanese, have not been disclosed.

Some security sources said the kidnappers wanted the release of an Arab in a Cypriot jail. Others linked the abduction to the detention in West Germany of two Lebanese.

Quint's release cut to 18 the number of Westerners missing and believed kidnapped in Lebanon, including 74-year-old Briton Jack Mann who vanished in west Beirut Friday.

The Bonn government initially expressed scepticism at Quint's kidnapping, but later confirmed it.

Berri's militia has over the past few years mediated the release of several Western hostages, including Americans on a TWA airliner hijacked to Beirut in 1985.

Mohammad Ali Hammadi, one of the two Lebanese brothers held in West Germany, has been charged with involvement in the hijacking of the TWA jet and faces judgment Wednesday.

Israelis 'losing control' over 'liberated' villages

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israeli officials are concerned that the Palestinian uprising has seized control of dozens of villages in the occupied West Bank, sources said Sunday.

"The army doesn't have enough men in the field. It can control the main towns and keep the main roads open but it has lost the initiative in the countryside," one source said.

Many remote villages, rarely patrolled by the army because they do not lie on major roads, have declared themselves "liberated" and are controlled by the masked protesters who enforce the uprising's directives.

A severe shortage of army manpower, due to reductions in annual reserve duty and return combat units to their normal training schedule, has contributed to the problem, the sources said.

The army has come under political pressure to take action after Israeli television recently screened foreign media film of para-military parades in West Bank villages by masked, uniformed youths carrying wooden mock assault rifles.

The army's dilemma was highlighted last month when a border

police search-and-arrest raid met massive resistance from Palestinians in the village of Nahalin, near Bethlehem.

Border policemen shot dead five Palestinians and wounding at least 13, an army inquiry found.

Nahalin is typical of dozens of villages scattered around the West Bank, off the main highways, where residents erect stone roadblocks, mount an organised guard, hold para-military marches and festoon walls with nationalist graffiti and Palestinian flags.

The military commander of the West Bank, Major-General Amram Mizna, told Reuters in March the army had dropped its policy of mounting large-scale raids on rebellious villages.

Before then, in so-called "initiated actions," troops frequently raided villages before dawn, arresting suspects and forcing residents to clear streets and remove nationalist flags and slogans.

Mizna said army policy now was to stay out of villages that did not disrupt major roads. But Jewish settlers and some senior army officers criticised the hands-off policy, saying it emboldened Palestinians to seize control.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children programmes
16:00 News summary in Arabic
16:05 World News
16:10 World around us
16:15 Local programme
16:20 Programme review
16:25 News in Arabic
16:30 Arabic series
16:35 Programme review
16:40 Monday Forum
16:45 Variety show
16:50 News summary in Arabic
16:55 Variety show (cont.)

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 Le Monde Est a Vous
19:00 News in French
19:15 Weekly Sport magazine
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Kate and Alice
21:10 O'Hara
22:00 News in English
22:20 Melba

PRAYER TIMES

04:45 Fajr
05:35 (Sunrise) Dhuha
11:32 Dhuhr
16:12 Asr
19:30 Maghrib
20:58 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swetlich Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church Tel. 63705
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624990
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrasanta Church Tel. 623266
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 625380, Tel. 685543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 711331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 715261
Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 717151
Armenian International Church Tel. 685526
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295
Rainbow Congregation Tel. 822605
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 821264

WEATHER

Weather supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
A gradual rise in temperatures will occur today making it relatively hot and dry. Winds will be westerly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Zein Zaghloul 638591
Dr. Othman Mustafa 774024
Dr. Jamil Mahmoud Al Zr 794149
Dr. Ahmad Al Naour 639934
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asena pharmacy 637055
Nasrallah pharmacy 623672
Al Shamsi pharmacy 636730
Yasbeh pharmacy 646945
Shamsani pharmacy 637660
RUSS:
Dr. Mohammad Al Za'bi (—)
Al Shamsi pharmacy 985238

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 630341
Rescue 199
Fire Brigade 192, 621111, 637777
Blood Bank 75121
Highway Police 845402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 871111
Amman Municipality 871111
Complaints 871111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 606230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Repairs 623101
Abdull Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Husseini Medical Centre 81381332
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 6442816
Al Khil Maternity, J. Amn 6424172
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 6641714
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Musader Hospital 6672279
The Islamic, Abdali 6612137
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646
Italian, Al-Muhajra 7771013
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 77511126
Army, Marka 89161115
Queen Alia Hospital 60224030
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)981071
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
RUSS:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)755555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)722775

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

16:10 Aqaba (RJ)
16:10 Damascus (RJ)
16:30 Cairo (RJ)
16:30 Sana'a (RJ)
16:30 Kuwait (RJ)
16:30 Doha (RJ)
16:30 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
16:30 Istanbul, Ankara (TK)
16:30 Casablanca, Tunis (AF)
16:30 Bangkok (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

10:10 Sana'a (LH)
10:35 Cairo (MS)
13:25 Bahrain (GF)
13:30 Bahrain (GF)
14:30 Kuwait (KU)
15:00 Baghdad (IA)
18:25 Paris (AF)
00:15 Baghdad (AF)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:55 Aqaba (RJ)
12:00 Montreal, New York (RJ)
12:45 Vienna, Chicago, Los Angeles (RJ)
13:15 Frankfurt, Copenhagen (RJ)
13:30 Cairo (RJ)
16:00 Jeddah (RJ)
20:00 Kuwait, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
20:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
21:10 Sana'a (RJ)
21:20 Cairo (RJ)
21:30 Dubai, Muscat (RJ)

MARKET PRICES



CROWN PRINCE MEETS SHARIF ZAID: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday called at the Prime Ministry where he met for a while with Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker.

JSSI surveys child abuse

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Social Service Institute (JSSI) has embarked on a two-week survey to collect information on child abuse in the Kingdom, and is assisted by a team of 17 male and female researchers and social workers in this field.

Dr. Shabib Abu Jaber, the institute's director, said that the survey team has started distributing questionnaires to 545 families picked out at random and representing high, medium and low income groups. The questionnaires are to be filled by the head of the family who will have to give basic information about the family members, and ways of treating children in different situations, according to Dr. Abu

Jaber.

He said that the survey aims to define practices by family members and education and treatment of children aged between nine and 18 so as to determine the degree of abuse towards them.

Treatment of children, he noted, is one of the most difficult problems facing parents in the country largely due to their lack of knowledge of children's development stages, and the social and economic changes that affect them. Theoretical preparatory work for this survey began in the middle of 1988, according to Abu Jaber who expects to complete the survey by the end of May and to have a full report on the results before the end of the year.

Jordan, UAE sign cultural agreement

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Sunday signed an executive programme to implement a cultural agreement for the years 1989, 1990 and 1991.

The programme which was signed here by Minister of Planning Ziyad Fariz and UAE Ambassador to Jordan Mohammad Jassim Shaker, provides for cooperation in education, higher education, information, culture, social development, sports and youth affairs.

According to the terms of the programme the two countries will exchange teachers and visits by educationalists and curricula and school text books, and will also participate in teachers training and encourage cooperation between universities and higher institutes of education in either country.

The two countries will cooperate in holding seminars and conferences and lectures on educational and cultural themes and will exchange literary work and publications.

Under the terms of the agreement, Jordan will make available 40 seats for UAE students at

Jordanian universities and four at community colleges that provide technical and vocational training in exchange for six annual scholarships for Jordanian students in UAE universities.

The programme urges both sides to coordinate their efforts in information fields and to prepare a protocol that would provide for the exchange of expertise, information, programmes, books and publications and art exhibitions and visits by folk troupes.

The two also agreed on helping one another in social research programmes and methods of dealing with handicapped children, and in holding scout and youth camps and other sports activities.

Meanwhile, it was announced Sunday that a Jordanian Ministry of Agriculture team will pay an official visit to the UAE on Monday to meet with officials and discuss the question of bilateral cooperation in agricultural fields. The agreement will be a follow up on a previous protocol on agricultural cooperation. During the week-long visit the team will inspect UAE's agricultural systems and projects.



QAF extends services to the community through centre like this in southern Jordan (File photo)

Consolidating infrastructure

By Suhair Obeldat
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — After the spontaneous thrill, joy and pride with which a low-income family greets the arrival of a new born baby, the family soon realises that much has to be invested in caring for the child's health and in saving for his/her future education.

Addressing these needs, the country's leadership, through the constant concern of His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, has succeeded in building an infrastructure that fulfills peoples' basic needs for health and education.

Consequently, this has led to social change. Jordanians now have better opportunities to aspire for better lives for themselves and for their children.

"This is where the Queen Alia Fund (QAF) saw a very important role for itself: to participate with the government and the local authorities in the development of the local communities," technical adviser to the fund, Dr. Ali Othman told the Jordan Times in a recent interview.

Since its establishment twelve years ago, and through trial and error, the QAF found that it should concentrate its services in the less developed areas of social development, especially women education and child care, with determination to expand these services to all regions in Jordan.

As is the case, it is a universally accepted fact that the human being is formed in the early period of his life. The child's intelligence, his perceptive and analytical abilities are shaped in this period. So, for this reason, the QAF tries to serve pre-school children, through the establishment of kindergartens in the QAF centres, in cooperation with the local authorities.

The QAF also tries to provide

the relevant education for mothers and fathers in child care. "Presently," we are cooperating with UNICEF to produce a series of 29 television films addressed to parents for this purpose," Othman said. For post-kindergarten children the QAF establishes children's clubs for extra curricular activities (games, plays...).

"On the other hand, the QAF tries to provide women through workshops with basic skills like knit, cooking and household management. We also try to provide them with the basic knowledge that will make them better mothers and housewives," Othman said.

But how does the QAF contacts those women? Othman explains that the fund contacts them through voluntary organisations or through local societies.

"Because community development is a comprehensive approach to development, that includes all sectors, we are trying to build up bridges with all the ministries concerned with local development, i.e. the ministries of health, education and agriculture, this in order to coordinate and sometimes even integrate our programmes with these ministries," he said.

Othman added that similar bridges are also being extended through the universities of Jordan, Yarmouk and Mu'ta.

The QAF has also become the umbrella organisation for three recently established bodies: the Research Centre for the Arab Council for Childhood and Development, the Scientific Organisation for Arab Women and the Council for Demographic Studies in Jordan.

"The objectives of these three new organisations are similar to those of the QAF, because of the close relationships between them," he said.

Highlighting one of QAF's pioneer projects in the region,



Dr. Ali Othman

Othman pointed out that the fund was the first body to organise a programme for educating mothers of handicapped children on how to deal with their children's handicaps.

On the national level, and in order to enhance awareness of the problems of local development, QAF organises seminars and conferences on the topic of concern to its mandate.

And what about QAF future plans?

"So far, we have been working in the south of Jordan (Karak, Tafleh) where we are needed most. Our future plans are to expand our services to the rest of the regions in Jordan, mainly in the north," Othman says.

"We expect community workers will be in great demand in the future, so in two years time, the QAF is going to establish Zein Al Sharak centre, in order to train men and women who will be well qualified to work in the fields of community development throughout Jordan," he said.

Othman concluded by explaining that the QAF is a non-profit organisation which tries to raise funds through the good offices of the government, from Arab and friendly governments and from funds and private contributions.

Jaber leaves for UNEP conference

Government gets tougher on chemical transportation

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker Sunday issued a defence order regulating the process of transporting chemical and dangerous materials in Jordan in order to ensure public safety.

The order prohibits the transportation of dangerous chemicals along any road in Jordan unless the transporting vehicle carries a clear sign giving indication of the goods, and unless the driver carries full details about the product endorsed by the concerned authorities.

The order made clear that vehicles with such products should obtain clearance for their operation from the Civil Defence and the customs authorities in the country. It said that the order applies not only to transportation of chemical substances within the Kingdom but also to those passing in transit to other countries and noted that violators of the order will be prosecuted.

Last March Jordan along with 110 nations signed an international agreement in Switzerland on controlling the process of transporting and dumping dangerous waste and chemical products.

Apart from the agreement, known as the international agree-

ment on the trans boundary movement of perilous waste, Jordan signed documents paving the way for cooperation among Third World nations in protecting the environment and the atmosphere.

Meanwhile, Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Youssef Hamdan Al Jaber left Amman Sunday for Nairobi to take part in the United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) 15th meeting. The meeting will discuss subjects related to the world environment situation from now until the year 2000. It will discuss changes in the world's climate, destruction of the ozone layer and the disposal of dangerous waste and chemicals.

In a statement before departure Jaber said that UNEP programmes to safeguard the world's environment will be discussed at the week-long conference. On the agenda, he said is the environmental situation in the



Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker

Israeli held Arab territories, the danger of car exhaust fumes to public health, the adverse effects of acid fog rain on the environment.

The conference will also discuss reports on children and the environment and the environment and human settlements.

In addition reports on ways to protect in ozone layer and means of stemming desertification will also be discussed the minister noted.

Jaber is accompanied by two senior officials from his ministry.

Jordan observes World Traffic Day

Roads claim 364 lives in 1988

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — A total of 18,038 road accidents occurred in Jordan in 1988 causing the deaths of 364 persons and the injury of 9,953 others, according to official figures announced here Sunday during a festival marking World Traffic Day.

The figures were announced by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Salem Masaadeh who said that the accidents registered an 11.3 per cent increase over 1987 figures.

General safety on the roads is part of every citizen's responsibility, and all Jordanians have a duty to try to reduce danger on the road by any possible means, the minister said in an address to a festival held on the occasion at the Royal Cultural Centre in Amman.

The celebration marking World Traffic Day manifests Jordan's keen interest in minimising the danger on roads as much as possible, the minister noted.

According to Masaadeh, most of the accidents, according to statistics, were blamed on reck-

less driving, and violation of traffic laws on the part of drivers and motorists. He said that the accidents are on the increase causing human loss and extensive damage to property.

The Ministry of Interior he added, is giving due concern to this problem and is in the process of modernising and updating laws that govern the use of roads in towns and villages.

Addressing the meeting, was Public Security Department Director Abdul Hadi Al Majali who said that although Jordan was able to reduce accidents on the roads in the past years it is still considered one of the countries that suffer most from road accidents. Jordan, strives to reduce accidents and hopes to attain that goal after finalising arrangements which entail installing road signs, imposing penalties on violating drivers and amending laws to serve the purpose, Majali noted.

Road accidents, he said, will continue to obstruct the process of construction and drain the

country's resources unless drastic measures are imposed to deal with the situation.

New plates for vehicles

AMMAN (Petra) — The Vehicles and Drivers Licensing Department plans to issue new plates for various vehicles registered in Jordan as of the beginning of July 1989. A department official said that the new plates will carry four digits plus two letters in Arabic to make it easier for traffic police to read. The official said that the Public Security Department (PSD) which runs the department has set up a special plant for manufacturing the plates and the numbers in Arabic only. Previously the plates had to be imported from other countries before the figures could be printed in Jordan, a process which used to create some technical difficulties for the department.

Jordan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia agree to protect Aqaba ecology

AQABA (Petra) — A two-day seminar on protecting the environment in Aqaba Gulf from pollution and developing marine resources has called for the formation of a well-trained emergency team to help combat the contamination of land and sea and to deal with sources of pollution.

The seminar in which specialists from the Marine Science Station in Aqaba, the Scientific Research Academy in Alexandria,

Egypt and three American universities took part, also called for close cooperation between Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia in means of protecting the environment.

All projects to be carried out in the region ought to take into consideration physiological, chemical and biological developments and effects on marine and land life in the Gulf, and should aim to increase the fish wealth, a statement at the closing session

here said.

It said that scientists from Saudi Arabia should be involved in the Gulf's scientific programmes, and that concerned scientists from Jordan and Egypt should visit the United States in the last quarter of this year to follow up discussions with their American counterparts at the universities of Michigan, Texas and Princeton on matters related to protecting the environment in the Gulf of Aqaba.

Major energy conference convenes at university today

AMMAN (Petra) — An international conference on energy systems will open at the University of Jordan on Monday with the participation of specialists from Jordan, Arab and foreign countries.

The three-day conference aims to focus light on modern research in energy systems with special attention to the use of renewable energy resources as well as exchange of expertise and information, and assessing energy resources and their effect on socio-economic schemes in the developing world, according to Laith Shbeilat, president of the Jordanian Engineers Association (JEA) which is organising the meeting.

Shbeilat told a press conference here on the eve of the conference that the delegates will tackle a host of important subjects dealing with solar and wind energy and its applications, renewable energy and its resources and ways for the preservation and rationalisation of energy consumption in its different forms.

The conference which will review a total of 31 working papers aims to concentrate attention on energy as a worldwide problem, and to highlight the current trend among industrialised nations towards reducing energy consumption and the role of engineers in this connection, Shbeilat explained. He said that by providing proper specifications and designs, engineers can help reduce energy consumption in buildings and homes, and can help spread awareness among the public on different means of employing energy.

The JEA is holding an exhibition of energy in cooperation with the Royal Scientific Society (RSS), the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources and several Jordanian companies during the conference which will be opened by Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hisham Al Khatib.

Shbeilat said that the Health Ministry is in charge of plans and preparing programmes for combating these diseases.

These are responsible for 80 per cent of deaths in advanced nations, nearly 50 per cent in developing countries and almost 65 per cent of deaths in Jordan, Shreim noted.

Subjects related to financial, technical and administrative measures required to combat such diseases, the voluntary and char-

itable societies' requirements to contribute to this endeavour and the prospects of laying down a comprehensive plan for combating these diseases will be reviewed at the seminar which is organised by the Health Ministry in cooperation with the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS).

Shreim said that the Health Ministry is in charge of plans and preparing programmes for combating these diseases.

Ministry organises health seminar

AMMAN (Petra) — Means of combating non-infectious diseases and the role of voluntary associations in this respect will be tackled by a seminar to open here on May 22, according to an announcement by the Ministry of Health.

The director of the ministry's non-communicable diseases department Dr. Mohammad Bashir Shreim said that the seminar will discuss heart diseases, diseases connected to blood circulation,

cancer, handicaps, road accidents, high blood pressure, diabetes and other topics.

These are responsible for 80 per cent of deaths in advanced nations, nearly 50 per cent in developing countries and almost 65 per cent of deaths in Jordan, Shreim noted.

Subjects related to financial, technical and administrative measures required to combat such diseases, the voluntary and char-

itable societies' requirements to contribute to this endeavour and the prospects of laying down a comprehensive plan for combating these diseases will be reviewed at the seminar which is organised by the Health Ministry in cooperation with the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS).

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

EXHIBITION OPENED: Deputising for Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath, Information Minister Nasouh Majali Sunday inaugurated a 10-day art exhibition of Aziz Ammourah, held at the Alia Art Gallery. On display are 32 plates representing Arab letters and Kufic calligraphy, in addition to poetry verses for contemporary Arab poets (Petra).

QUARANTINE: A veterinary quarantine has been opened in Mafragh and local officials said that the project which cost JD 250,000 will help control and stem the spread of disease and boost veterinary services. According to the officials the project consists of enclosures for sheep, warehouses and administrative offices for vets and officials (Petra).

CONSUMPTION: The central market place in Amman last month received a total of 35,771 tonnes of fruits and vegetables coming from various regions to be marketed in the capital and neighbouring areas, according to market officials. They said 1,800 tonnes vegetables and fruits came to the market from the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip (Petra).

LOANS: The Cities and Villages Development Bank (CVDB) has agreed to loan Sheikh Hussein municipality JD 40,000 to construct a municipal council building.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- * A plastic art exhibition by Mohammad Bolis and Munira Tamiyyeh at the Housing Gallery.
- * The May art exhibition at Al Wasiti Art Gallery, Plaza Hotel.
- * An art exhibition by Helen Grant at the Petra Bank Art Gallery.
- * An exhibition of ceramics and silk flowers entitled "Amman Embedded in the Heart" by Sana' Al Asir at the Housing Bank Gallery.
- * An exhibition of children's art at the Scientific Cultural Centre of Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation — 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- * An art exhibition by Aziz Ammourah at the Gallery Hall, Jabal Lweibeh.
- * An exhibition entitled "Grand Projects for the State: 1979-1989" at the French Cultural Centre.

CONCERT

- * A Suite concert by Wissam Boustany at the National Music Conservatory — 11:00 p.m.

FILM

- * A French film entitled "Frankenstein" at the French Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

LECTURE

- * A lecture, in Arabic, entitled "Crafts in Jordan" by Abdullah Rashed at Al Raed Al Arabi School — 6:00 p.m.

Fact-finding U.N. mission due today

AMMAN (Petra) — A United Nations fact-finding mission is due in Amman Monday to start examination of the situation in the occupied Arab territories.

The mission members, dispatched by the U.N. press office, will meet with senior Jordanian officials and hear reports on the Palestine question and the current situation in the occupied lands as well as Israel's human rights violations and repressive measures practiced against the Palestinian people. The mission members will also tour a number of Palestinian refugee camps in Jordan during their five-day stay in the country.

Ministry draws plans

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Transport Hikmat Khammash Sunday approved the formation of a special committee to draw up plans to implement the royal directives, contained in His Majesty King Hussein's letter of designation to the new government. The subjects to be reviewed by the committee cover organisational structure of the ministry and its various departments. The new committee groups Abdullah Al Jazi, director general of the Hijazi Railway Corporation, Ali Ahanda, director general of the Meteorology Department and Mohammad Shahid Ismail, director general of the Telecommunications Corporation.

Prince Khaled visits RSS, RJGC

AMMAN (Petra) — Saudi Air Defence Commander Prince Khaled Ibn Sultan Ibn Abdul Aziz Sunday paid visits to the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) and the Royal Jordanian Geographic Centre (RJGC), and was briefed on their programmes.

Accompanied by the commander of the Royal Jordanian Air Force, Prince Khaled first called at the RSS where he met with Minister of Agriculture Adnan Badran, and the secretary general of the Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST) Dr. Jawad Al Anani as well as RSS President Hani Al Mulqi.

Prince Khaled was briefed on the RSS's operations. Badran told the guest about cooperation and coordination between the RSS and HCST in promoting scientific research and serving the objectives of the socio-economic development in the country.

The Saudi prince toured the RSS departments and met with their directors who also explained the functions of their sections. The Saudi prince visited the RJGC and was briefed by its director on the work of preparing maps and the modern techniques involved in the operations.

Leon hosts Jordan's history conference in June

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan will patronise the 4th international conference on Jordan's history and antiquities due to be held in the French city of Leon during the period from May 30 to June 4, 1989, according to a report by the Arabic daily Al Dustour, published Thursday.

Al Dustour quoted Director General of the Antiquities Department Ghazi Bisheh as saying that a number of archaeologists and historians from various parts of the world will discuss over six days issues pertaining to means of

settlement in archaeological sites in Jordan throughout the various ages.

The Antiquities Department is carrying out excavations, maintenance and restorations works to highlight the ancient cultural history of Jordan.

The department is also pursuing efforts to reveal further treasures of Jordan, in cooperation with local and foreign scientific institutions, through the joint archaeological expeditions, which carry out excavation works in the various archaeological sites in the Kingdom.

Military court sentences

AMMAN (Petra) — The military court has ordered the imprisonment of four people for up to 15 years and the payment of fines for trafficking with drugs, and three others for charges that included forgery and robbery.

According to a court statement Rida Abdul Rahman, Abdul Qader Ibrahim and Ali Mukhtar have been sentenced to eight years and the payment of JD 8,000 each for trafficking with heroin. The court sentenced

Ahmad Zaki in absentia for 15 years in prison and the payment of JD 20,000 for a similar charge.

According to the statement, Mazen Mikhail Juhra has been sentenced in absentia to eight years in prison with hard labour and the payment of funds he had stolen through his forgery dealings and embezzlement. Salameh Mohammad Shabaneh has been sentenced to three years with hard labour for a robbery

Jordan Times

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Closer to settlement

HIS Majesty King Hussein's vote of confidence in the administration of U.S. President George Bush to pursue seriously the peace process in the Middle East is matched by his equal confidence in the ability of Moscow and Washington to work together for the same objective. Such big power cooperation is the very ingredient that is necessary to put together the Middle East jigsaw puzzle in furtherance of the ultimate aspiration to settle once and for all the Arab-Israeli conflict in all its dimensions.

If, as His Majesty King Hussein has forecasted, the two superpowers are genuinely willing to cooperate and together launch joint diplomatic initiatives towards the resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflicts, then one can truly sigh with relief. There is no doubt that with Moscow and Washington working together and teaming up in improvising formulas for finally ending the hostility between the Arab parties and Israel, the Middle East can be sure that the beginning of the end of such conflict is in the cards. Hitherto the singular most important link that was missing in the quest for peace in the Middle East has been the lack of cooperation and coordination between the U.S. and the Soviet Union. Now, thank God, that missing link has been restored and can be put to positive historic use.

Nevertheless, there is always a lingering anxiety that the two superpowers may opt to put their collective national interests ahead of the just and legitimate rights of the Arab parties which have had a raw deal all along and ever since the inception of the Palestine question. It has not escaped the attention of the Arab side that way back in 1947, both superpowers acted in concert to create the state of Israel at the expense of the Palestinians. Now they have the opportunity to rectify that wrong by applying their joint efforts to rescue the Palestinian people from the twenty two years old Israeli occupation and replace it with a just and permanent solution on the basis of relevant U.N. resolutions, especially 242 and 338. It seems that at the time being they are just doing that. It was inevitable that superpower cooperation to settle regional disputes would reach the Middle East as well. Let anyone forget, His Majesty King Hussein has projected a long time ago that Washington and Moscow will eventually and by this spring move in earnest to diffuse the Arab-Israeli conflict and put in motion the process for the final resolution of the Palestinian question. Recent events prove him right.



JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i daily Sunday dwelt again on the situation in the occupied Arab territories and Israel's escalation of repressive measures against the Arab population. This escalation, the paper said, coincides with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's proposals for holding elections under occupation, something which is totally rejected by the Palestinian people and their legitimate representatives. It is obvious that Israel is employing the escalation of repressive measures against the Palestinians as a lever to force them to end the intifada and accept the Shamir plan, the paper noted. It said that the Palestinians who have offered so much sacrifice over the past 18 months can by no means accept humiliation and subjugation to Israeli will and will not stop their revolt for empty promises. What the escalation of repression might lead to is further stepped up counter measures by the Israeli people and the freedom fighters and a development of the present methods that are being used to secure freedom and independence, the paper added. It said that peace does not go hand in hand with repression and usurpation of Arab land can only give cause to resistance and continued struggle.

Al Dastour daily discussed Lebanon in its Sunday's editorial referring to the shaky ceasefire there and the mediation of the Arab League's committee. The paper said that thanks to the committee's efforts the guns fell silent for three days now but that the ceasefire should extend indefinitely if a lasting settlement is to be achieved and bloodshed to end in the embattled country. The paper said that the mediation efforts paved the way only for the first step in a long process that could bring about reconciliation among the Lebanese factions and the Lebanese people. The paper described the mediation committee's step as a great achievement under the present circumstances because a halt to the fighting means a breathing space for the Lebanese people and an end to sufferings.

Sawt Al Shaab daily referred to King Hussein's continued concern to develop the Armed Forces and his continued visits to army divisions to inspect their combat readiness. The paper said thanks to the King's keen interest in developing the Armed Forces and his relentless efforts to provide them with up to date weapons that the nation enjoys a great measure of peace and security. The Armed Forces will remain, as the King wants them to be, a strong fortress protecting the Arab Nation and a shield in the face of external dangers, the paper said. The paper said that King Hussein who is committed to the principles of the Great Arab Revolt is devoting his time and effort towards serving this nation.

Weekly Political Pulse

Let's work out a national charter

By Waleed Sadi

THE seeds of the still raging conflict in Lebanon were sown several decades ago and date back to the inception of Lebanon as a nation-state in the forties. By all historical and political accounts, there was a continuous neglect in Lebanon of the national duty to promote a modern conceptual framework of citizenship where one's religion or national origin would not encroach on one's citizenship rights and duties. By letting the traditional and parochial currents existing then to continue to control the governing system in the country for decades on end, it was inevitable that such currents would sooner or later clash head on as indeed they did ever since the beginning of the civil war there in 1976.

There is a big lesson to be learned from Lebanon for many countries, developed as well as developing. The sooner that lesson is learned and appreciated the faster would states with potential conflicts similar to that of Lebanon would be able to commence long range remedial measures with a view to nip the potential conflict in the bud. Accordingly any country caught floundering with the development of the modern concept of citizenship would be better advised to heed the lesson of Lebanon and disinvest in any latent or overt current subdividing its people into factions that could end up competing instead of cooperating with one another.

In this context we in Jordan must seize upon the rare historical opportunity created for us by His Majesty King Hussein's call on Jordanians Wednesday to articulate a national charter that aims

for the elaboration of a national code of conduct. His Majesty also proposed that any such charter should find its inspiration in the principles of the Great Arab Revolt. At a time when the people of some Arab countries appear to be heading for the abyss of factionalism, it is most relevant to accentuate the message of the Great Arab Revolt which carried the banner of Arab nationalism as an overriding aspiration that supercedes all other considerations. This means that anything anathema to the Arab Revolt must be stricken out from the projected Jordanian code of conduct and the anticipated charter. It also follows that anything that could be reasonably construed as compatible with the Great Arab Revolt must not only be tolerated but also promoted and nurtured.

Having thus designated the borderlines for Jordanian national code of conduct, what is left is to gauge and assess accurately and faithfully the legitimate aspirations and yearnings of Jordanians. There are obviously two ways to go about this mission: Either we wait for the next national elections and use their result as instrument or catalyst to elaborate the desired charter or to conduct a scientific poll of Jordanian views and thoughts on the proposed charter under the supervision of a national committee that enjoys the trust and faith of all concerned. Coming to think of it, it is unfortunate that thus far poll taking has not become a feature of Jordanian national conduct especially in the absence of parliamentary life. What better way is there to measure the mood

of the country on issues whether domestic or otherwise? Had we adopted such a mechanism, the concerned authorities would have known before hand that the seeds of the riots that shook some parts of the country were sown some time ago.

And once the charter is adopted by national consensus, one would hope that it could serve as the guiding light and constitution for any futuristic political parties that the country may need to bolster the parliamentary experience in Jordan. One of the principal obstacles facing the formation of political parties in Jordan has been the constant nagging fear that some of such parties may have more allegiance to outside interests than to national Jordanian public weal and welfare. The articulation and adoption of the projected national charter could put an end to such anxieties as all political pursuits would henceforth be subject to the constraints imposed by the provisions of the aspired Jordanian charter.

The apocalypse that had hit Lebanon due to the proliferation of factionalism and the lack of a coherent and truly national charter must never be allowed to take root in any other part of the Arab World. One Lebanon is too many. Now is therefore the time for all the Arab peoples to engage in the formulation of their respective national charter on the basis of the Great Arab Revolt which was the truly pan-Arab movement. And now is the time to open the file of that glorious revolt once again with a view to reawaken the Arab Nation to its true message and inspiration.

Mauritania: On the edge of two worlds

By Jeffrey Ulbrich
The Associated Press

NOUAKCHOTT, Mauritania — Mauritania, which straddles both the Arab and black African worlds, is trying to balance one foot in each.

It has embraced its Arab brothers to the north in the new union of the Great Arab Maghreb, which has yet to yield any major economic benefits, and is engaged in a bloody dispute with Senegal, its southern neighbor and largest trading partner on the continent.

Mauritania's population, estimated at up to 2 million, is almost evenly divided among whites of Arab-Berber extraction known as Moors, who dominate the government and most of the economy; Haratines, or black Moors, who are mixed-race descendants of slaves who adopted Berber customs; and black Africans from the Senegal River region along Mauritania's southern border.

But even as it turns north toward the other Maghreb countries of Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Libya in hopes they will be able to form a mini-common market, eyes are being cast with new interest toward the south. Two new dams on the Senegal River have opened up the perspective of greater agricultural opportunities.

Those developments, in large measure, are at the root of the recent trouble that has resulted in an estimated 260 dead in anti-Senegalese violence in Mauritania and anti-Mauritanian violence in Senegal.

Tens of thousands of people were repatriated to their respective homelands in an emergency air shuttle set up at the height of the violence, sparked by a minor border incident in April.

The government is promoting a new agricultural policy, giving land to any individual or company willing to develop it in a country where 99 per cent of the more than 1 million square kilometres of land is covered by desert.

The programme is attracting investment from many white Moors never previously interested in agriculture, a development resented by some of the country's blacks.

The dispute, both political and racial, comes at a time when Mauritania, an Islamic republic run by a military committee for national salvation, is making its first tentative steps toward democracy.

There have been scattered local elections in the past year. The next step is nationwide municipal elections.

"An ephemeral democracy is not what we are looking for," Mauritania's president, Lt. Col. Maouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, said in a speech last month. "A healthy, efficient and durable democracy demands a change in our mentality and the eradication of ignorance and other social ills."

A multiparty system and real parliamentary democracy don't appear to be in the immediate offing, however.

"Total democracy? That depends on the situation," said Information Minister Mustapha Ould Abedarrahman. "The president is a man of his word. Each time the context allows development of the democratic process, it happens. But it is impossible to say how long total democracy will take."

Mauritania also is restructuring its economy, at the recommendation of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. About one-third of the government-owned companies are being sold off; others are being reorganized.

The Mauritians are quite proud of having got a grip on servicing a foreign debt that stood at \$1.87 billion in 1987, according to World Bank figures. It said the gross national product was \$816 million last year, down from \$869 million in 1987.

Abedarrahman, an economist and former finance minister, says debt service ate up 35 to 40 per cent of the country's export income in 1984.

"We are now at about 22 per cent," he said. "We want to get it down to about 20 per cent, which is manageable."

But the restructuring, along with a 15 per cent currency devaluation and a freeze on wages, has had its consequences. Many public sector jobs were eliminated. The government has established a special fund to help people find new employment.

Resettling the 50,000 Mauritians repatriated from Senegal in the latest conflict also will be a financial burden on the government and will mean a sharp cut-back in remittances many of the people had regularly sent back home. Per capita income in Mauritania was only \$410 in 1987.

Also unknown is the impact of the April violence on the fishing industry, which has overtaken iron mining as Mauritania's biggest income earner. Nearly all of the country's fishermen were Senegalese, and nearly all of them fled, leaving the industry in a shambles and markets nearly empty of fish.

The trouble with Senegal also has led to fears of a resurgence of racial troubles at home. Senegalese say deep-seated racism among white Moors is at the heart of the conflict between the two countries. Mauritanian government officials vehemently deny it.

Racial violence in the 1960s by southern blacks fearful of further Arabisation of the country was harshly put down, and even discussion of race was banned.

The government claims to have stamped out the African Liberation Forces of Mauritania, a black opposition group, leaving it only with a few 'troublemakers' based in Dakar. The organisation's military wing tried a coup in 1987.

In Hungary, independent periodicals challenge established media

By Teddie Weyr
The Associated Press

BUDAPEST, Hungary — New independent magazines and newspapers are setting a higher standard for openness in Hungary and challenging state-run media to match their gloss and sensationalism.

Daring reports by journals like the colourful weekly tabloid Reform or the cultural monthly Kapu have created a competitive atmosphere for the older Communist Party organs and made it tougher for censors to muzzle their reporting.

The art of scooping has also spread to the broadcast media, bringing to viewers and listeners previously unthinkable coverage such as last month's Hungarian TV interview with the leader of Czechoslovakia's 1968 reform movement, Alexander Dubcek.

In early May, state radio broadcast the entire speech of Imre Nagy, premier during Hungary's 1956 anti-Soviet uprising, who announced that Russian tanks had entered Budapest. Nagy was subsequently killed.

Official tolerance of independent journals is one of the most visible consequences of reforms introduced over the past year by the Hungarian leadership, which is trying to bolster its popular support in a transition to a multiparty system.

Despite the changes that have removed barriers to criticism of party policies and inspired more public participation in national affairs, editors complain their reports continue to be stifled by a chronic paper shortage and a state monopoly on distribution networks.

One editor, who asked not to be named, said the system allows authorities the opportunity for "blackmail."

The new political weekly Vilag (World), due out later this month, aspires to become a Hungarian equivalent to Time magazine or West Germany's Der Spiegel.

But the printing and publishing vagaries of the East Bloc would have required the editors to submit a design for a glossy colour cover three weeks in advance. Journal-

ists called this impossible for a journal that aims to chart the rapidly changing course of Hungarian politics.

Vilag, founded by young journalists disillusioned with their jobs at the Communist Party youth weekly Osetlet, operates out of a former army barracks and was still waiting for telephones and telexes to be installed less than three weeks before its first issue was due out on May 25.

Iona Kocsi, one of the paper's deputy editors, said Vilag was made possible by Hungary's more open political climate. Although the staff is reform-oriented, she said the weekly, underwritten by a group of private investors, would be independent of any political parties or movements.

Official tolerance of independent journals is one of the most visible consequences of reforms introduced over the past year by the Hungarian leadership.

Kocsi said the publication has a good potential market and that many intellectuals read the popular tabloid Reform magazine because there is no other political weekly.

Peter Toeke, editor of Reform, says he does not feel threatened by Vilag because his newspaper's 350,000-issue press run regularly sells out and is estimated to reach 1 million readers.

He described the publication he founded as "centrist without being partisan" and supportive of the Communist Party's reform wing.

Critics have labelled Reform the "Big Mac" style of journalism because it sandwiches politics among popular features, fashion and gossip. But Toeke says that mixture explains Reform's success.

The effect of the independent media also is felt by journalists at long-established newspapers and journals.

Even the weekly economic journal Hvg, one of the most outspoken before Hungary's media landscape began to change, is feeling the pressure.

"The critical boldness characteristic of Hvg in the past has become characteristic of essentially all the serious publications," said Endre Babus, a journalist at Hvg and a leader of the Glasnost Club founded last year to promote freedom of speech and press.

Babus said the weekly, recently converted to private shareholders' ownership, was weighing whether to become a political weekly or to focus on economics to appeal to managers operating within Hungary's increasingly market-oriented economy.

While the competition has had its pluses for some official media, it also has inflicted some damage. The Communist Party daily Nepszabadsag has lost 200,000 circulation since the beginning of

Kapu, a monthly devoted to culture as well as politics, is considering a daily publication and has taken steps to overcome the paper shortage and post-office distribution monopoly.

A West German paper manufacturer is to be one of Kapu's shareholders, and the editor-in-chief, Zoltan Brady, said he has contacted other editors to explore the possibility of setting up an independent distributor.

Since its first press run of 26,000 issues last September, the magazine has tested the outer limits of Hungary's openness policies. Its growing popularity is illustrated by circulation now at 100,000.

Kapu was the first to publish the names of those executed after the 1956 revolt, and also carried excerpts from the memoirs of a former Romanian spy published in the West. That series was halted, however, when Romania threatened to break off diplomatic relations.

Brady himself was long black-listed, had his passport revoked and spent 80 days in prison two years ago for a series he did on corruption.

Indicative of the changing times, he said it took only a wave of an official's band to gain permission to publish Kapu.

George Khoury
Amman

LETTERS

Investigate

To the Editor:

I WOULD like to propose to the Council of Europe, which comprises parliamentarians from 23 countries, or any international body, such as the International Court of Justice or the World Federation of Jurists, to appoint a fact-finding commission to examine thoroughly the lie that is being repeated round the clock and alleges that the Nazis exterminated, mostly in the gas-chambers six million Jews during the Second World War.

This allegation is being used incessantly to blackmail Germany and tax the conscience of good-hearted people to make them acquiesce to the atrocities which are being perpetrated daily in Palestine.

I am sure that the existence of the tens of thousands of Jews still controlling the economy of Germany belies this allegation — unless they are phoenixes, which come to life after being burnt to ashes.

George Khoury
Amman

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To see Jordan from the sky

High Above Jordan
Aerial Photographs by Jane Taylor
Foreword by H.M. King Hussein

Reviewed by Rami G. Khouri
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — One of the great joys of travelling in Jordan — should you ever have the chance to do so — is to roam over the landscape in a helicopter or low-flying airplane. The views are, literally, breath-taking, be-

cause of the extraordinary variety and beauty of a landscape which changes every few minutes. In some areas, you have a panoramic bird's eye view over the three different land zones of Jordan — the hilly region that includes the country's main cities, the Jordan Valley Rift to the west and the semi-arid steppe-like de-

sert to the east.

In a car, you slowly meander from one zone to another, gradually noticing the changing ground cover and architectural styles. From the air, you weave in and out of the changing topography, quickly glimpsing the reality passing in front of you, a little bit like the sensation of flipping through the pages of a book.

You don't see many people from the air — an occasional flock of sheep or herd of camels catches the eye now and then. What you do see is that more impressive combination of natural beauty and man's use of the land: farmlands, terraced hillsides, roads and large buildings, villages, hedonism, tent settlements, orchards, irrigation works, and the like. That's for starters.

BOOK REVIEW

Then, there is the added pleasure, which I have been fortunate to experience precisely twice, of having a cooperative pilot who agrees to leave one of the helicopter doors open. A beautiful world suddenly doubles in intensity, enhanced by the noise of the engine and the feeling of the cool air rushing through the cabin. It is all quite exhilarating — a spectacular perspective of the landscape and the ancient monuments below.

If you don't get the opportunity to do this in the near future, probably the closest you can get is to buy this book which Jane Taylor has photographed and published herself. Though there are other aerial photographs of Jordan published in books that include many ground-level scenes, as far as I know this is the only published collection purely comprising aerial photographs, and it should prove popular

among residents and visitors alike.

The author, a British national, briefly taught history before moving into her current field of television production, writing, photography and publishing. This is the third book she has published.

Whether or not you buy the book, you would find it worthwhile to visit the exhibition of aerial photographs which opened on May 14 (for ten days) at the Alia Art Gallery on the First Circle of Jabal Amman. The 40 photographs (those published in the book and some others as well) are all for sale, with proceeds donated to the St. Johns Ophthalmic Hospital in Jerusalem.

The book is large size (26 x 34cm), with a hard cover, four-colour dust jacket, and 64 pages of high quality colour printing. Wisely, she has kept the text down to a minimum, allowing the colour photographs to dominate. Each two-page spread is devoted to a single site (except Petra, which gets five), and each photograph is spread out across nearly two pages.

Next to each image, below about half a column of text, is a smaller photograph which complements the main picture. Often, this smaller photograph is a close-up of people, which provides the human quality often missing from the more monumental and panoramic aerial pictures.

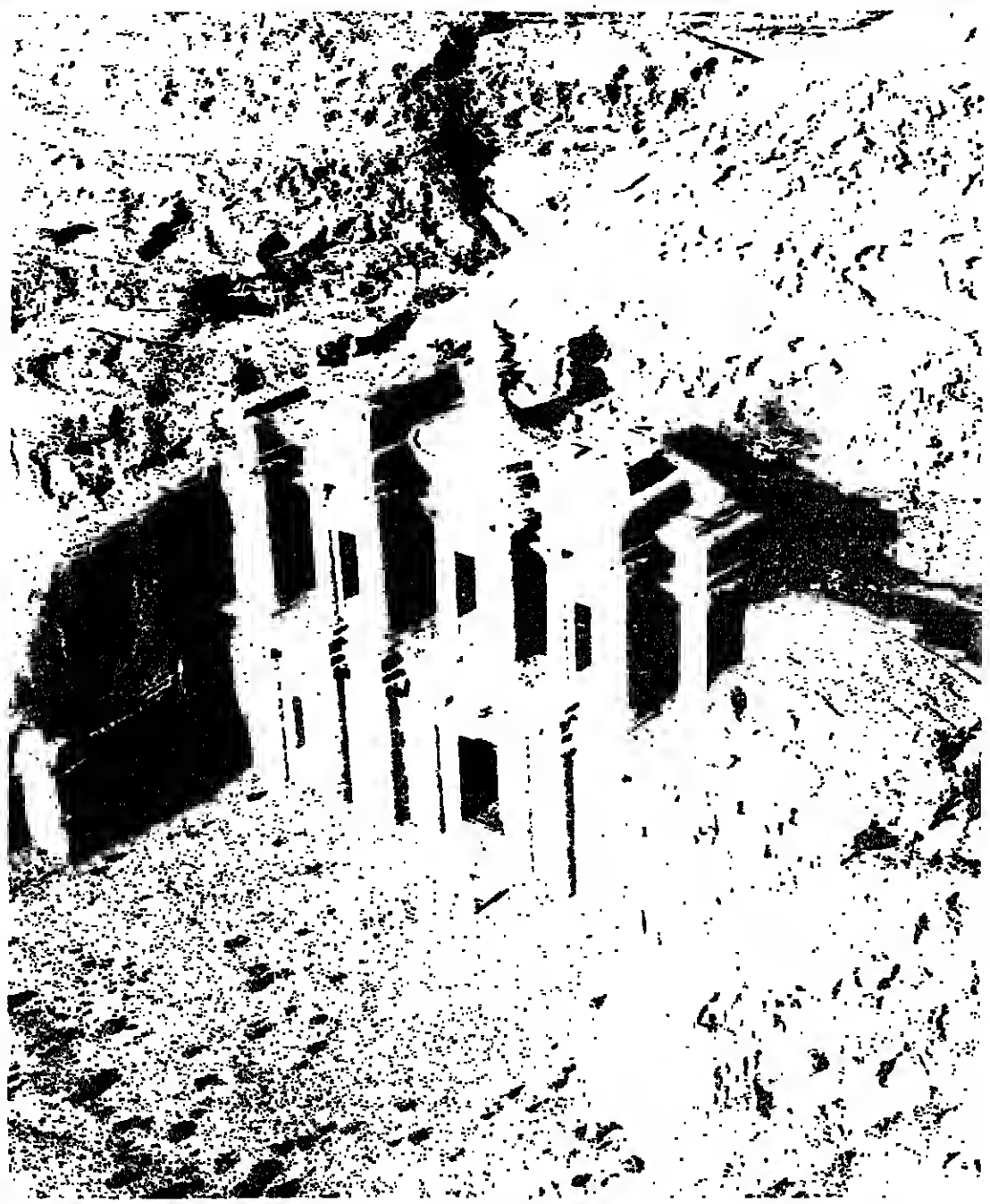
After a full-page map of Jordan, a foreword by His Majesty King Hussein, and a succinct introduction of nearly four pages which outlines the main periods of historical development in Jordan, the reader quickly takes off on a most enjoyable aerial journey around this land — a land which man has inhabited and used for hundreds of thousands of years, and which nature has moulded for millions of years.

Archaeology

The trip has a distinctly archaeological and historical flavour to it, as about two-thirds of the pictures are of ancient monuments or major historical sites. The most important ones are all here — Petra, Jerash, Umm Qais, Amman, the desert castles, Mt. Nebo, the three castles at Ajlun, Sbnak and Kerak, Azraq, Umm-el-Jimal, Machaerus, Madaba and Pella. Natural scenes include Wadi Rum, the village of Dana, and a shepherd and his flock walking along the hills of Gilead, while the photo of a bedouin encampment near Petra, amidst rock-hewn Nabataean structures, perhaps best symbolizes the relationship between man and earth that has always defined historical forces and episodes in this, and every other, part of the world.

There is a range of technical and artistic achievement in this book; but, like with all such endeavours, each person will react to individual photographs in a personal and subjective manner. The majority of photographs are technically impressive — well composed and precisely exposed, bringing out the rich colours and dramatic contours of the Jordanian landscape. In most cases, the aerial perspective also permits us to appreciate aspects of a site or a structure which we would not easily see from ground level.

For example, the Jerash photo clearly reveals the temenos (sacred) precinct around the Temple of Artemis, and the grid layout of the colonnaded streets. The views of Mushatta and Tuba, two large, unfinished Umayyad era desert castles, show the outlines of the complexes in a manner that is impossible to appreciate from the ground. One of the Petra photographs is probably the only chance you'll have — unless you soar off a local mountaintop — of seeing the treasury, the theatre and Qasr el-Bint temple in a single view. And the pictures of Azraq and Umm el-Jimal put the antiquities in a fresh and accurate perspective — either nestled among modern houses and water pools (Azraq), or (Umm el-Jimal) sprawling and penetrating deeper into the surrounding semi-arid countryside, which turns green when water is



The high places of Petra

stored and used for irrigation — now as in ancient times.

Only a few photographs struck me as slightly below the otherwise high standards of the rest of the collection. The panoramas of Amman, Aqaba, Wadi Rum and Madaba are rather grainy, and flat in their colour rendition — perhaps because all the other photographs are so sharp, crisp, colourful and vivid. Aerial photography is perhaps less appropriate for Qasr Kharana than other sites because of the castle's modern cement roof which detracts

from the rest of the structure. It's one of the few structures I know of in Jordan which is more impressive from the ground than from the air. And the two views of Wadi Rum (on the cover and inside) and that of Aqaba see to have been taken at a time of day when the lighting was not at its most clear or sharp, and a higher perspective might have produced more dramatic images. These few shortcomings, however, are quite marginal in the face of the high technical quality and beauty of the rest of the collection, which

embodies the magic and art of photography — to see and to capture a moment in your own style.

If that moment should occur when you are a photographer hanging out of a flying machine several hundred metres above the ground, the result is a splendid book such as this, one which brings the thrill of aerial photography and the special beauty of the aerial perspective to a wider audience which should enjoy these photographs and learn from them at the same time.

Mussel rafts of Chiloe

By Oscar Chaparro

"THE ESTUARY doesn't yield much any more," says Sigifredo Lehuin, a mussel producer in Yaldad on the southern Chilean island of Chiloe. "There used to be natural beds of mussels everywhere, but now people who want to earn a living from the sea have to farm it."

Lehuin and four other families are working with a research team from the Austral University's Institute of Marine Research to set up mussel culture facilities in the area.

"The only solution left for us is to build mussel-growing rafts," says Lehuin. The five families now have two rafts in place, which annually produce 20 to 24 tonnes of mussels for each family. Their results have encouraged other fishermen to follow their example — in 1987, 15 other local families joined the project.

The island of Chiloe has always been renowned for its seafood. Its clear waters and numerous protected bays have traditionally been very productive. Some years ago, though, several processing plants were set up on the island but overharvesting soon wiped out this natural resource.

In 1984, with IDRC's assistance, the Institute of Marine Research started work on "choritos", a local name for the mussel known scientifically as *Mytilus chilensis*. The team also studied giant mussels (*Choromytilus chorus*), known locally as "choro zapato", as well as oysters.

At a small research station in Yaldad, biologists are discovering how these organisms grow and reproduce. In mussels, reproduction occurs in the water when "gametes" (mature germ cells) fuse, thereby producing larvae. The larvae then swim about for three or four weeks before attaching themselves permanently to an object.

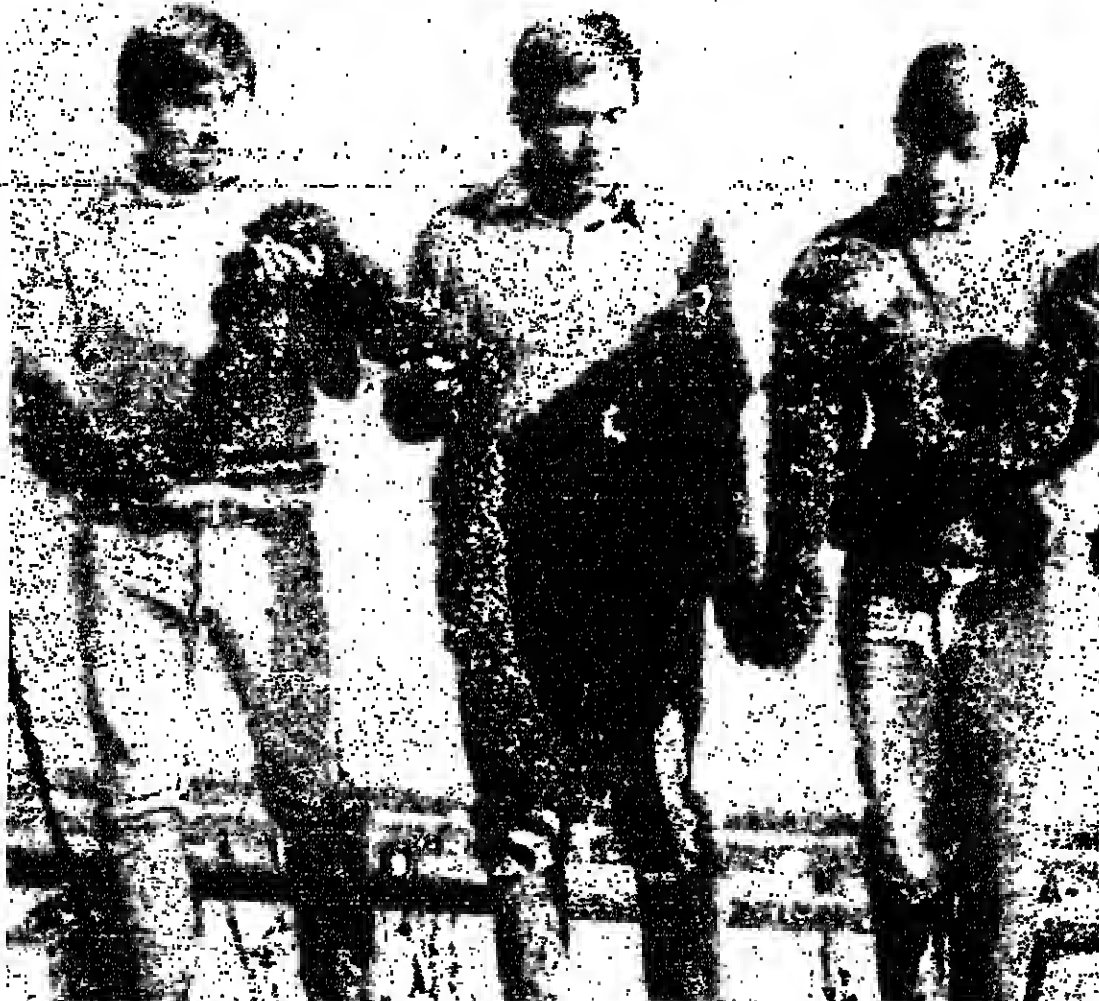
Researchers examined the behaviour of this mollusc in great detail and attempted to answer various questions. Where and when are larvae to be found? How long do they swim about? When and to what do they usually attach themselves? The researchers also looked into aspects of mussel marketing.

Using their results, Yaldad has become the largest producer of spat (mussel embryos) in the country. In fact, production increased from 30 tonnes in 1984-85 to over 1000 tonnes in 1988-89.

Rafts made from local materials

On Chiloe, suspension rafts seemed to be the best production method. Similar rafts are found in many mussel operations throughout the world, so the technique for building them was not new in itself. But the researchers improved the rafts by using local materials (including wood). This cut the costs so that artisanal fishermen and farmers in the region could afford them.

The local community gradually



Workers display a string of young mussels known as spat. A rope hanging in the water below the raft serves as a point of attachment.

began to express a desire to participate in the project. Several artisanal fishermen who had been helping out the researchers were interested in their technological success and said they themselves were prepared to try mariculture.

The researchers waited until they had completed all their biological studies and had gathered all the necessary information before involving the local population. Even then, the technology was introduced slowly.

In 1986 five families were selected to participate in the experiment. "They were chosen for their sense of responsibility and serious attitude," says project director Jorgen Winter, of the Austral University in Valdivia, Chile. "This was important because the future of our efforts to disseminate the technology depended on these families. If we had failed with them, no one would have wanted to get into mussel culture."

The families visited the Yaldad station to learn mussel culture techniques. Station staff also showed them how to assemble the all-important rafts. A year later, the families were able to harvest the fruit of their labour — splendid mussels that would be quickly snapped up on the market. The money earned was reinvested by the families in a second raft.

News of the success of these families spread quickly and there are now 19 small family enter-

prises producing mussels in the region. Heads of families were all trained at the Yaldad station as part of the project.

Seed for all

Besides helping families living near the Yaldad station, the project also stimulated the establishment of other mussel culture ventures by supplying local entrepreneurs with the spat needed to start their own operations.

Yaldad Bay is still a preferred site for gathering spat. Twenty-four mussel culture enterprises have set up their collectors in the bay. The harvest of spat is sent to other sites where the mussels are raised to market size. The hope is that some of these sites will in turn become spat suppliers in the near future.

Visitors from various South

American countries have visited the Chiloe installations and are considering how the technology might be applied in their regions.

Dr. Winter himself is surprised at the results. "Initially, we thought convincing the local people would be the hardest part. But in the end it happened all by itself. Our experimental raft aroused the interest of the first families, who had no difficulty in convincing their neighbours."

The researchers are now working on other molluscs to diversify local production and prevent market saturation.

Biologist Oscar Chaparro works at the Institute of Marine Research of the Austral University of Chile. Some of the interviews for this article were conducted by Sergio Sanchez Bahamonde, a journalist in Santiago.

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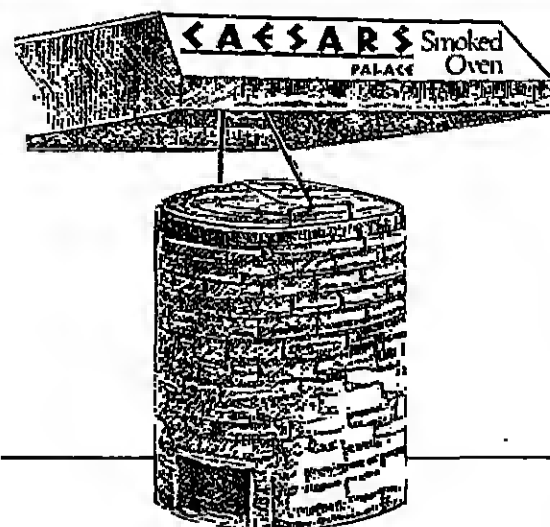
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Iraq to complete Basra reconstruction next month

BASRA, Iraq (AP) — The reconstruction drive in this southern port, devastated during the Gulf war, was extended for a month because of the scale of the project, the governor has announced.

Governor Anwar Said Al Hadithi told the Associated Press in an interview that the renovation projects were extended until June 12 to cover further parts of the city and involve new projects. President Saddam Hussein last February set a three-month deadline to complete the reconstruction, which includes removing war debris, clearing part of Shatt Al Arab waterway, and rebuilding the city's infrastructure.

At least 90 per cent of the buildings in Basra were destroyed or damaged in fierce Iranian artillery barrages during the eight-year Iran-Iraq war. Iranian troops reached within 10 kilometres of the city last spring before being driven back, and Iraqis consider the city a symbol of their defence.

After the August ceasefire, the Iraqi government announced it would invest \$5 billion in rebuilding Basra.

Al Hadithi said most of the work originally planned was completed, but more projects under an additional \$1 billion allotment three months ago was unfinished.

He said six small rivers in Basra had been cleared of debris, their banks resurfaced and forty

bridges constructed.

A new electricity grid and new pipe network for drinking water have been installed.

Iraqi authorities have said they will build a new drinking water processing plant in Basra that will receive water from the Euphrates near Nasriya, 120 kilometres north.

Residents consider the current water from the Shatt Al Arab too brackish.

Al Hadithi said the government had opened its purse and offered unlimited allocations to fund the development plans in Basra which the government wants to be "Iraq's most beautiful and elegant city."

Iraqi officials have said the city was to be rewarded for its suffering during the war.

But the city still bears scars from the shelling, including shrapnel holes in buildings and thousands of decapitated palms.

A reforestation programme is underway in the famous palm groves.

The government has encouraged the population of Basra who left their homes during the war to return by offering them plots of land, cash gifts and loans or

grants of up to 10,000 dinars (\$32,000) to build new homes.

The government is offering similar incentives to its employees from other towns to move to Basra.

Al Hadithi said the city, Iraq's second-largest, is back to its pre-war population of 1.5 million. An estimated half the population fled during the shelling.

Among the projects to be implemented during the one month extension of the development scheme is the installation of 96 statues of senior Iraqi officers killed while defending the city

against repeated Iranian onslaughts.

The statues will be erected on the corniche of the Shatt Al Arab with their arms pointing east, toward Iran, "warning against the dangers which have always come from Iran," the governor said.

The government did not use independent contractors for the reconstruction drive, relying on its own men and machinery to do the work.

At least 100,000 workers and 40,000 machines from different parts of the country were dis-

patched to take part in the project, called "the national drive for the reconstruction of the city of the cities."

"What we are doing cannot be compared with the sacrifices of thousands of brave men who lost their lives in defending Basra," said Nawaf Abdullah, an engineer supervising work in downtown Basra.

Abdullah was trailing under the scorching sun to repave a street in the city's old sector.

Basra had been the country's main outlet to the sea, but lack of progress in the peace talks keeps

the Shatt Al Arab blocked with most of the 75 ships caught there when the fighting erupted.

Iran insists that a 1975 treaty drawing the southern border between the countries down the middle of the waterway is still valid.

Baghdad says the treaty was abrogated shortly before the Gulf war broke out in September 1980 and that the border, defined under an earlier treaty lies on the eastern, Iranian bank.

The dispute helped spark the war and remains a knot in the peace talks.

Africa loosens red tape on investment

NAIROBI (R) — Black Africa is starting to snip away red tape strangling private business, but may have to shed it more vigorously to tempt new foreign investors.

Zimbabwe last week became the latest state in the past year to streamline investment rules, or signal plans to do so, in a bid to attract capital and stimulate its economy.

"The attitude of most African countries is now more favourable to private sector development," says Peter Rwelamira, an economist with the Abidjan-based African Development Bank.

Even so, governments still tread gingerly and analysts warn that changes so far must not only stand the test of time but must be followed by more reforms if they are to succeed.

"It should be stressed that the new investment regime is not sufficient by itself," Morrison Sifiani, president of the Confederation of Zimbabwe Industries, said of his country's new strategy.

He called for trade liberalisation and a relaxation of price policy to support last week's reforms, which included an easing of controls on foreign shareholders' funds blocked in local banks and tax concessions for mining companies which are seen as the most promising foreign exchange earners.

Other plans are for a single investment centre to speed up processing of project proposals like the "one-stop-shop" concept already introduced by Mauritius, and Kenya.

The Indian Ocean island of Mauritius, with one of the few stable multi-party democracies in Africa, set an impressive pace in its search for international investments.

Guaranteed repatriation of capital and dividends, tax and other incentives have lured investors from Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore, Britain, France, West Germany and South Africa to a

now thriving industrial export processing zone.

Botswana, the world's third largest diamond producer, also offers attractive tax incentives in an effort to diversify its economy, and applies no exchange controls.

But there are few such attractive havens for investors in a continent where growing foreign debt, recession, political uncertainty, rigid currency controls, overvalued exchange rates and bureaucratic delays have tended to deter foreign investors.

"Private investment flows and bank lending have been reduced to a trickle," the U.N. Economic Commission for Africa remarked in its 1989 report last month.

Many of the countries that have started to introduce more flexible policies have done so under reforms sought by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank in return for much needed aid.

The reforms include budget cuts, devaluations to make exports more competitive, loosening of import and export controls, more emphasis on market forces, wage and employment restraint and privatisation or streamlining of bloated state enterprises.

Yet the World Bank, in a report published last month, said of sub-Saharan Africa: "Its real effective exchange rates remain high, with currencies overvalued

by perhaps a third compared with its (trade) competitors."

Foreign exchange shortages remain a major headache, leading to reduced manufacturing output because of curbs on imports of raw materials, a decline in new investment and other problems.

Ethiopian Airlines, for example, has \$40-\$50 million frozen in other African countries which it is unable to transfer because of currency shortages.

Ethiopia is one of a handful of Marxist-Leninist countries, including Zimbabwe, Angola and Guinea Bissau, which have adapted investment codes or taken other steps to woo foreign investors.

Angola has become the second biggest producer in sub-Saharan Africa, attracting names like Conoco and Unocal from the United States, France's Total and Elf Aquitaine and British Petroleum Co. PLC.

Elsewhere, countries like Ghana, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Senegal, Uganda and Nigeria are stepping up efforts to foster private investment.

But progress has not always matched expectations. Bankers in Nigeria, black Africa's biggest economy, recently voiced concern that a much vaunted policy announced in January to open up areas of industry to foreign business had yet to be made law.

U.S. business leaders see slower growth, no recession

HOT SPRINGS, Virginia (AP) — The nation's top business leaders have predicted that economic growth this year will taper off from an already slackening pace, but they nonetheless radiated confidence that a recession can be avoided.

In its semiannual forecast, the Business Council predicted that growth, as measured by the gross national product, will fall to 2.9 per cent this year and to 1.7 per cent in 1990.

Although that would represent a significant slowdown from the healthy 3.9 per cent pace posted last year, the council expressed "general optimism" that no economic downturn is likely in the next two years.

Indeed, the council's consensus report forecasts that growth will

rebound in the latter part of 1990, rising from 1.4 per cent in the first quarter to 3.1 per cent by the fourth quarter.

"This suggests not only that recession will be avoided but that the economy could be headed in 1991 toward an unprecedented ninth year of peacetime cyclical expansion," the report said.

The council, made up of executives of 65 of the nation's largest corporations, said the anticipated slower-growth trend for the near future comes largely from an expectation that exports and business investment will contribute less to the economy this year than in 1988.

The panel's economists also expressed concern about worsening inflation extending into 1990, with some corporate analysts expecting price increases to advance at an annual pace exceeding six per cent.

Inflation worries have heightened this year as several sharp monthly advances in the consum-

er price index combined to pace a 6.1 per cent annual inflation rate during the first quarter.

The council's consensus call is for a five per cent rise in consumer prices in both 1989 and 1990, up from 4.4 per cent in the past two years.

"The central view is that although the flare-up of prices early in 1989 was an aberration, price behaviour overall will not improve appreciably until mid-1990," the report cautioned.

It said future price increases would be held down somewhat by a falloff in oil prices, which were a big part of the first-quarter surge in inflation.

The council's report, based on the judgment of 19 corporate economists, said a minority of the analysts remain concerned about "the lagging effects of inflation and believes that there will be echoes from both the earlier period of strong economic growth and the oil episode for some time after growth decelerates."

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ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Pay 1988 income tax before June

AMMAN (Petra) — The Income Tax Department has called on taxpayers to submit statements on their 1988 income as soon as possible and before the end of May. A department spokesman said that those who fail to submit statements by the said deadline will be liable to a two per cent fine for each month delay. The department director Salman Al Tarawneh said he was satisfied with the positive response and cooperation of the majority of taxpayers which have already submitted statements about their incomes in 1988. The department normally grants exemptions reaching up to eight per cent to taxpayers who pay their dues in the first three months of the fiscal year. According to Tarawneh, those with accumulated tax can pay their dues in monthly instalments in accordance with a timetable to be worked out with the department.

Ayyoub inspects slaughter house

AMMAN (Petra) — Supply Minister Ibrahim Ayyoub Sunday inspected the Greater Amman Municipality's slaughter house and watched the process of handling and distributing fresh meat arriving in Amman from abroad. The minister urged officials to take measures designed to ensure fair distribution of meat to all regions and said that all workers in the slaughter house should preserve cleanliness at all times. He said that vehicles transporting meat to various areas should also be kept immaculately clean to ensure the public health safety.

Innab leaves to Damascus

AMMAN (Petra) — Industry and Trade Minister Ziyad Innab has left to Syria to take part in the general assembly meeting of the Syrian-Jordanian Free Zone Company. The two-day meeting will review the company's activities in the past year and endorse a report on the closing accounts and the general budget. Innab and the Syrian Economy Minister Mohammad Lmadi will co-chair the meeting which will also review projects that will be implemented in 1989 and this year's fiscal budget.

Syria raises wages, prices and fees

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria announced pay rises for government workers and retired people Saturday, along with increases in petrol prices and customs duties to pay for them. President Hafez Al Assad issued a decree ordering 25 per cent increases from June for all government employees, including the police and the armed forces, to compensate for a rise in the cost of living. Retirement pensions went up by 15 per cent, raising the monthly maximum for retired men to 2,500 Syrian pounds (\$223). The increases will cost the government about 5.5 billion pounds (\$491 million), financial sources estimated. This will be covered by raising fuel prices by between 25 and 50 per cent and increasing customs duties on some commodities by 50 per cent. A litre of petrol will now cost 15 pounds (\$1.33), up from 10 pounds, and a litre of diesel two and a half pounds (22.3 cents), up from two pounds.

Italian air staff ordered to work

ROME (R) — Transport Minister Giorio Santuz has ordered air traffic controllers to drop plans for a six-hour strike Monday. The transport ministry said Santuz ordered members of the Licta Union, who have been striking for a new contract, to work as usual Monday. Air travellers in Italy have suffered delays and cancellations for weeks due to various strikes by state-run airline Alitalia pilots, cabin crew and flight technicians. Santuz, who ordered the controllers back to work once last month, has threatened to hire foreign airlines to guarantee air travel in Italy during the peak summer season unless workers and employees sorted out their differences.

Finns to help Iran build shipyard, rigs

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Iran has signed a contract worth more than \$63 million with a Finnish company to help build a shipyard and oil rigs for drilling in the Caspian Sea, state-run Tehran Television has said. The television, monitored in Nicosia, quoted Oil Minister Golamreza Azadeh as telling a news conference the contract was signed with Rauma Repola of Finland for construction for "jack-up" rigs and service ships for the offshore project. He said the shipyard and oil rigs will be constructed within 40 months by the Iranian company, Sadra, supervised by the Finnish contractor, the television reported. The Caspian exploration project will be carried out with help from the Soviet Union, which also borders the inland sea. Azadeh said that a contract was also being negotiated with the Soviets for lease of a drilling crane, the television reported. He added that seismicographic tests in the Iranian part of the Caspian seabed had revealed at least 39 large oil deposits, the television reported.

China to double oil imports from Iran

NICOSIA (R) — China has agreed to double its annual crude oil purchases from Iran to two million tonnes, the Iranian news agency IRNA said. It said the agreement was included in a number of letters of understanding signed in Peking during President Ali Khamenei's visit to China. "Increased oil sales to China will be effective in the growth of bilateral commercial exchanges," the agency, monitored in Nicosia, quoted Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayat as saying.

Oman to build ferro-chrome plant

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — Oman is planning to build the Middle East's first ferro-chrome plant at an initial investment cost of \$6 million, the sultanate's state-run Oman daily Observer has said. The starting production is expected to be between 25,000 and 50,000 tonnes a year, said the paper. It said the capacity would be fixed and construction started after studies of seven newly-found chrome deposits are completed in about two years. The plant will be set up at Majan, near the state-owned copper smelter at Sohar on the Gulf of Oman. Ferro-chrome is used largely in arms production. Chrome deposits were first discovered in the sultanate in 1974. Approximately 90 per cent of world production of the mineral comes from the Soviet Union and South Africa.

Mauritius fails to lure banks

PORT LOUIS (R) — Mauritius has finally received its first offshore banking licence application, five months after opening up for business as a tax haven, banking regulators have said. London-based Barclays Bank has applied to open an offshore facility on this Indian Ocean island but none of the other seven institutions which have expressed an interest has yet made up its mind, the officials said. Offshore banking allows financial institutions to lend money and take deposits in foreign currencies without the taxes or regulations imposed by their home governments. Some banks are unhappy with the Mauritian offshore regulations "which are out to our expectations in so far as offshore is concerned," said one bank executive, who asked not to be identified. Bank executives would not say exactly what they objected to in the Mauritian legislation but the World Bank, in a recent report, complained of "a level of regulations bordering on the burdensome" which could keep Mauritius from developing as a regional banking centre for the Indian Ocean. The Mauritian-banking law includes some disclosure provisions and so-called "know-your-client" regulations aimed at preventing money-laundering.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Sunday, May 14, 1989				
Central Bank official rates				
	Buy	Sell		
U.S. dollar	538.0	542.0	French franc	82.9
Pound Sterling	393.1	402.4	Japanese yen (for 100)	357.8
Deutschmark	279.8	283.0	Dutch guilder	248.6
			Swedish crown	82.6
			Italian lira (for 100)	38.4
				82.6

Panel 1: A man in a suit is being pulled back by a woman in a dress at a bar.

Panel 2: Two women in dresses are talking. One says, "HE'S AT IT AGAIN, FLO." The other replies, "THE LADS WITH THE WINNING SMILE - P."

Panel 3: The two women are holding up beer mugs. One says, "NO SWEAT - SHE ONLY SMILED AT WINNERS."

BY JOHNNY HART



Students battle riot police with stones and firebombs in South Korea

Fierce clashes erupt in South Korean city

KWANGJU, South Korea (AP) — Charging riot police lashing out with truncheons and shields Sunday dispersed thousands of people who marched for a second day to protest the death of a radical student.

Waves of riot police tore into a crowd of about 5,000 people in front of the provincial government headquarters and drove them back. Screaming protesters were trampled underfoot as troops broke up the crowd after some people tried to force their way past police.

Radical students pelted police with rocks and bricks as fighting surged up and down Kwangju's main street. Hundreds of onlookers jeered and yelled insults at police who tried to clear the street by marching in lines with interlocked shields.

"Down with the military dictatorship!" protesters chanted. "Drive out the Yanks."

Some police and protesters were hurt in the fighting. Police officials said they had no figures on injuries.

About 5,000 riot police in green combat fatigues and black visored helmets surrounded the government building and broke up the protest. The march Sunday was smaller but more violent than similar protest Saturday.

A smaller march earlier Sunday by about 1,000 people was peaceful except for some pushing and shoving between police and protesters. Riot troops sang a police fighting song to try to drown out protesters singing anti-

government songs.

A much larger crowd assembled in the afternoon for the second march to the government headquarters. Chanting protesters tried repeatedly to break through lines of riot police in front of the headquarters before troops with black one-metre truncheons charged to drive them back.

Protesters were marching to denounce authorities over the death of student Lee Chul-Kyun. Dissidents claim police tortured and killed him. "Lee Chul-Kyun" protesters chanted.

Lee's body was found last Wednesday in a reservoir near Kwangju, a provincial capital 280 kilometres south of Seoul. Police, who were hunting Lee for anti-government activities, have denied any involvement in the death.

In Seoul, officials said pathology tests were being conducted Sunday to determine if Lee's body contained plankton, which they said would suggest that he died by drowning. Initial results would be released Monday, they said.

Student leaders told a news conference Sunday they would appeal to Amnesty International to conduct an independent investigation of the death if an official Korean probe concludes police were not responsible.

Kim Hyung-Jang, one of the student leaders, claimed government pathologists were helping cover up police involvement in Lee's death.

Reform calls hit new peak on eve of Gorbachev visit

Students occupy Peking square

PEKING (Agencies) — Thousands of Chinese students ignored pleas from the authorities Sunday and massed in the centre of Peking to demand political reforms on the eve of an historic visit by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

As Gorbachev left Moscow for the first Sino-Soviet summit in 30 years, Chinese government officials met student leaders to try to halt the growing protest.

"Give us democracy or give us death," said one banner held aloft by students, who had marched or bicycled to the vast Tiananmen Square Saturday and camped there overnight despite government pleas to go home.

Many of the students, on hunger strike to press their demands, vowed to remain in the square where Chinese leaders are to welcome Gorbachev Monday.

"We will stay here until we are satisfied the government is prepared to give us political reform," said one Peking University student.

As many as 10,000 onlookers crowded into the square, where banners proclaiming "Hunger Strike" fluttered from the flag poles supposed to fly the Chinese and Soviet flags Monday.

Teachers from two of Peking's most prestigious universities threatened to go on strike Monday if the government did not give concrete signs of political change.

Senior government leaders including Peking Mayor Chen Xitong and top education official Li Tieying met about 40 students late Sunday to seek a compromise and spare China the embarrassment of the protest coinciding with the summit.

Communist Party chief Zhao Ziyang urged the students Saturday not to disrupt Gorbachev's visit. The party's organ, the People's Daily, ran a front-page editorial Sunday also calling on students to "cherish the country's reputation" and not interfere with the summit.

The official Beijing daily, meanwhile, announced that the central Beijing square will be cleared of all pedestrians and traffic Monday, the day Gorbachev arrives.

Early Sunday, students and workers began flocking to the square to watch the excitement and express their support for the fast. Scattered groups of dozens of students, carrying banners and posters calling for sweeping democratic change, lined the main boulevards to the square.

Several dozen students organised as a glee club arrived at mid-morning and began serenading students with a tuneless rendition of the "Internationale," the socialist anthem.

The students said they were prepared to continue their sit-in until Gorbachev's arrival. The Soviet leader is to receive an official welcoming ceremony Monday afternoon in front of the Great Hall of the People, facing the 40-hectare square.

State television broadcast film of officials meeting student leaders, and showed thousands of students huddled against the chilly night air in Tiananmen Square. Many of them smiled and raised their fingers in a victory salute.

Senior leaders Sunday also met journalists who have risked losing their jobs to sign petitions protesting against restrictions on reporting the student campaign.

Students in the square were told to leave the square by the government, but they refused to do so.

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Cut in E. Germany forces — next on Soviet agenda

BONN (R) — Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev's peace offensive rolls on this week with a partial pullout from East Germany by Soviet tanks and troops.

The withdrawals from West Germany officially begin Wednesday under sweeping military cuts promised by Gorbachev in a speech at the United Nations in December.

But Western reporters visiting Soviet soldiers preparing for the pullout last week at Altes Lager, south of East Berlin, were told a thousand tanks had already runned back across the Ural with-out fanfare in the last two months.

In all, 4,000 tanks and more than 10,000 troops will be pulled back from East Germany, according to Soviet officials.

In line with Gorbachev's policy of openness, Western journalists will be allowed to cover Wednesday's withdrawals from Altes Lager.

During similar publicity events in recent weeks Western reporters have seen East German army units being dissolved and watched Soviet forces leave Hungary.

The Soviet partial pullout from East Germany, where the bulk of Moscow's military might abroad is concentrated, has great symbolic value.

It is certain to win a few more points for Gorbachev in the propaganda war, coming two weeks before the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation's (NATO) 40th anniversary summit May 29-30 where the allies will try to patch up their differences over whether to start talks with Moscow on short-range nuclear missiles.

In his U.N. speech, Gorbachev promised to withdraw 50,000 men and 5,000 tanks from the three front-line states of East Germany, Czechoslovakia and Hungary by 1991.

The withdrawals, if carried out as announced, will cut the number of Moscow's divisions on the territory of its allies from 30 to

24.

Western experts said the cutbacks, along with reductions announced by East European countries in their own forces, would change the military balance in Central Europe to the West's advantage.

Analysts said it was becoming clear the Soviet cuts would weaken precisely the forces that cause NATO most concern — those capable of mounting a surprise attack.

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Mikhail Gorbachev

S. Africans resume Namibian pullout

WINDHOEK (AP) — South African troops have resumed withdrawal operations after ceasing all hostile action against South West African People's Organisation (SWAPO) fighters in northern Namibia, territorial and military spokesmen said Sunday.

Gerhard Roux, spokesman for territorial administrator Louis Pienaar, said no incidents had been reported in northern Namibia and the region appeared to be calm since Saturday morning, when South African troops and South West African anti-independence police units returned to their bases.

They had been searching for SWAPO fighters who had crossed the border from Angola April 1, the day a U.N.-supervised independence procedure was to go into effect.

Territorial officials say 316 SWAPO fighters and 27 security force members died in the subse-

quent fighting. Most of the fighters have since returned to Angola.

A military spokesman said South African forces have resumed their operations to pull equipment out of the territory and reduce their forces to 12,000 men by the time refugees from the 23-year-old war, including un-

armed guerrillas, begin returning to participate in the November elections. The withdrawal procedures had been suspended during the fighting.

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Uninvited guest spoils wedding

SEOUL (AP) — A woman sued the man she planned to marry because his former live-in girlfriend showed up uninvited for the wedding — which was then cancelled, according to news reports. The Korea Herald said 26-year-old woman, identified only as Shin, was seeking \$21,000 in damages for mental stress and repayment of wedding costs from Pak Chang-Su, 32, her intended groom. The suit, filed in district court in the southeastern port of Pusan, said the wedding was cancelled after a woman who had lived with Pak for seven years showed up unexpectedly at the wedding hall.

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Column 8

Dolphin kidnaps another's newborn

MARINELAND, Florida (AP) — A dolphin with a strong maternal instinct had to be isolated after she kidnapped a newborn dolphin and refused to allow the natural mother near the baby.

Marineland officials said. "This is the second time she's done that. She wants a baby so bad," park spokesman Bill Puckett said. Liz has since been returned to the main dolphin tank following the abduction last month. Officials say the baby dolphin is now old enough to fend for itself. The baby was abducted by Liz April 7 after a dolphin named Betty gave birth in a bare tank that holds Marineland's 20 Atlantic bottlenose dolphins. Liz, who is believed to be about 22 years old, has never had any babies, Puckett said. She apparently chooses Betty's babies to kidnap because Betty is much weaker than the other adult females in the tank. Soon after the dolphin was born, Liz swam in and pushed the 14-to-18-kilogram baby away from its mother. Officials worried that the baby would starve if it could not get milk from its mother. That happened two years ago when Liz kidnapped another of Betty's babies and the young dolphin died 13 days later.

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Baltic republics launch joint drive

TALLINN, USSR (Agencies) — Hundreds of activists from the three Baltic republics have banded together for the first time to demand economic and political autonomy and an end to what is seen as Moscow's meddling in their affairs by next year.

Leaders of popular fronts from Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania also drafted a resolution charging that President Mikhail Gorbachev's drive for perestroika, or restructuring, has failed to curb economic decline.

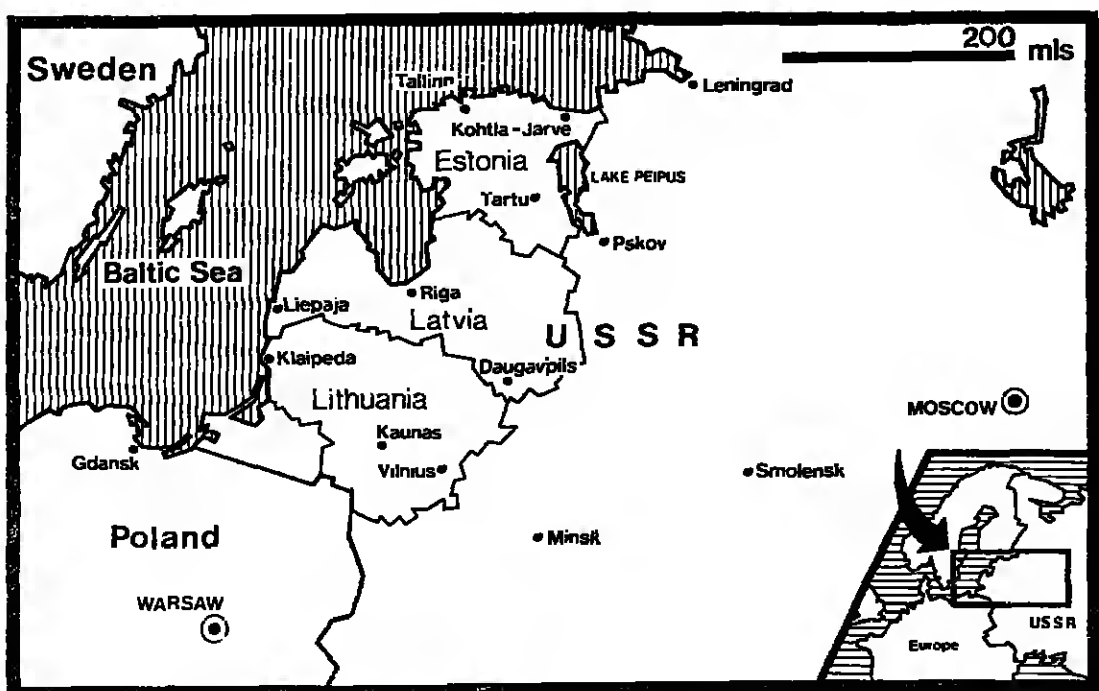
Another resolution claimed the tiny but progressive republics have the right to choose any economic system that would meet material needs, protect the environment, and break the stranglehold of Moscow-based planners and officials.

"The only chance we have to get better is to get rid of this vampire that is sucking our blood," Dainis Ivars, president of the Latvian People's Front, told the assembly. "But we can't do it separately, we can only do it together — as three Baltic sisters."

Speakers also urged the Kremlin finally to recognise the existence of secret clauses to a 1939 Nazi-Soviet pact under which the Baltic states were absorbed into the Soviet Union in 1940, ending two decades of independence.

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"The awakening of the Baltic nations from what appeared to be their death throes has been amazingly swift, unified, unanimous and universal," said Mati Hint, current president of the Estonian Popular Front.

"The Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian peoples are ready to accept responsibility for their own destinies again."

Fellow front member Liina Tomisson urged the Estonian authorities to submit to the new Soviet parliament a draft law making the republic completely independent economically by the start of 1990.

"Several months, worth their value in gold, have been lost," she said, adding that failure to put the issue to deputies in Moscow at this month's session would make it too late for the plan to go ahead on time.

In a call echoed by speakers from Latvia's Popular Front and the Lithuanian Sajudis movement, Tomisson also urged the

republics towards creation of a "Baltic common market."

"We should unite" or at least coordinate our efforts in the field of tourism, trade, fishing, ship repairs, transit haulage and other similar areas," she said.